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HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

TWELFTH REPORT, APPENDIX, PART III.

THE

MANUSCRIPTS

OF THE

EARL COWPER, K.G.,

PRESERVED AT

MELBOURNE HALL, DERBYSHIRE.

VOL. III.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1889.

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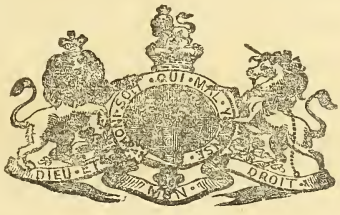

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INTRODUCTION.

Secretary Sir John Coke (whose papers are contained in Volume I. and the first part of Volume II.) left surviving him at his death in 1644 two sons. Of these the elder, born in 1608 and admitted of Trinity College, Cambridge in 1623, became Sir John Coke, knight, in July 1633, and a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire in 1636. He was returned a member for the County of Derby in November 1640 (the Long Parliament). The Commons Journals record that on 6th June 1643 he was one of seven members "who desired further time to consider of the Covenant before they enter into it," and that on the 8th "Sir John Coke took the new Oath and Protestation, and entered into the new Covenant." In September 1643 he subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant. In January 1646–7 Sir John Coke was appointed one of the nine Commissioners to receive the King at the Scottish headquarters at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and to have charge of him at Holdenby. In 1648 Sir John Coke left England for France and died in 1650. He left no issue.

Thomas Coke, the younger son of the Secretary, was born in 1614, and was admitted of Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a barrister of Gray's Inn. He was returned for the Borough of Leicester to the Parliament of April—May 1640, and again to that of November 1640 (the Long Parliament). In the early days of the latter Parliament he was appointed a member of the Committees of Inquiry after Popish Recusants, respecting the jurisdiction of the High Commission, the papers seized from Sir Edward Coke, the petition of Dr. Bastwick, the Customs and Impositions since 1624, and other Committees. It appears in the Commons Journals that on 1st December 1642 Thomas Coke was sent for as a delinquent; on 15th February 1642–3 the business concerning him was referred to the Committee for absent members; on 28th September 1643 he was ordered to attend the Committee for sequestering absent

members' estates; and on 26th January 1643–4 he was voted "incapable of sitting." On 9th August 1648 an ordinance was passed "for pardoning the delinquency of Thomas Coke of Graeis Inn Esquire, a member of this House," and it was resolved that the House accept of the fine of 500*l.* for his delinquency.

It appears in the proceedings of the Council of State that in May 1650 Thomas Coke was a prisoner in Newgate; on 14th June he was ordered to leave town and be of good behaviour; on 12th August he had liberty to come to town for one month to bury his brother, and prosecute his composition. In September 1650, upon his petition and discovery of the property he had acquired by his brother's death, his fine was fixed at 2,200*l.* (Royalist Composition Papers, Second Series, Vol. 46, p. 777.)

On 18th March 1650–1 the Council of State ordered Thomas Coke to be committed close prisoner to the Tower upon suspicion of treason; and the same day they made a Report to Parliament that he had made his escape, that they had taken order for the present pursuit of him, and that they conceived him to be a very dangerous person and one principally trusted and employed by the enemies of the Commonwealth. Thereupon on 20th March 1650–1 an Act was passed declaring Thomas Coke a traitor, unless he come in and render himself in custody in order to his trial within four days, with 500*l.* recompense to the person who shall bring him in. Officers at the ports were to search all ships for Thomas Coke; and the Sheriffs were ordered to proclaim the Act forthwith. On 22nd March the Council of State ordered him to be apprehended in Staple Inn, and delivered to the Lieutenant of the Tower to be kept close prisoner. On 24th December 1651 they reported to the House that Thomas Coke, committed prisoner to the Tower last March, and all his estate sequestered, has had his subsistence there from his sisters, and from the credit of his keeper; and requested that, as his sisters cannot bear that charge, or discharge his debt to his keeper, he may have allowance out of his estate for his past charges and his future subsistence.

When and how Thomas Coke acquired his liberty does not appear; it was perhaps a consequence of the subversion of the

Long Parliament, and the Council of State in April 1653. He was buried at Melbourne on 23rd August 1656.

His only surviving son, John Coke, born in 1653, was brought up by his guardian Sir Francis Burdett at Foremark, under private tuition, and was for a time at the University of Oxford. In 1684 he was appointed a Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber to the Queen. He was returned for the Borough of Derby to the Parliaments of May 1685 and of January 1688–9. While a member of the former Parliament, when, in the month of November 1685, the House of Commons had under consideration the reply of King James II. to their Address against the employment of officers disqualified by the Act respecting Popish Recusants, John Coke, for his bold comment on that reply, was by a vote of the House committed prisoner to the Tower.

Under direction by the Earl of Devonshire, John Coke, with the rank of Captain, in December 1688 conducted a troop of horse, raised in the neighbourhood of Derby and Nottingham, through Leicester and Northampton to Oxford, to support the revolutionary movement. It returned without having engaged in any action, and was paid by means of hearth and excise monies, levied under the authority of the Earl of Devonshire. This troop was afterwards incorporated in a regiment, of which Lord Cavendish had the command, and John Coke was Lieutenant-Colonel, a post which he shortly resigned; and having gone abroad, probably to recruit his health, he died at Geneva in 1690, leaving two sons and three daughters surviving him.

The elder son, Thomas Coke, was born in 1674. In 1688–9 he resided for some months in the family of a French Protestant minister at Rotterdam. He was afterwards at New College, Oxford, and on leaving the University in 1696, he visited the Low Countries, and stayed at the Loo in Guelderland with a friend in the household of King William III.

In the Parliaments of August 1698, December 1701, August 1702, June 1705, and July 1708, Thomas Coke was returned for the County of Derby, and in those of November 1710 and November 1713 for the Borough of Grampound. In the Parliament of August 1702 he was chosen one of the Committee for examining the Public Accounts; and in 1704 he became one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. At the end of 1706 Thomas Coke

became a Privy Councillor, and was appointed Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, an office which he held until his death on 17th May 1727.

In 1704, having under an Act of Parliament converted into fee simple his interest in the Rectory house and estate of Melbourne in Derbyshire, previously held by his ancestors from 1628 as lessees of the Bishops of Carlisle, he commenced the formation of the well-known gardens of Melbourne Hall, which still remain a monument of his taste and judgment.

Vice-Chamberlain Coke married first in June 1698 the Lady Mary Stanhope (elder daughter of Philip 2nd Earl of Chesterfield) who died in January 1703–4, leaving two daughters; and, secondly, in October 1709, Mary, daughter of William Hale esquire of Kings Walden, Herts, a Maid of Honour to Queen Anne, who died in January 1723–4, leaving one son, George Lewis Coke, and one daughter, Charlotte Coke. The latter, on the death of her brother unmarried in 1750, succeeded to his Melbourne and other estates. Charlotte Coke had married in 1740 Matthew Lamb, who was created a Baronet in 1755. Their son, Sir Peniston Lamb, became Baron and Viscount Melbourne in the Peerage of Ireland, and afterwards in 1815 Viscount Melbourne in the Peerage of the United Kingdom. He was succeeded by his sons William 2nd Viscount Melbourne (the Prime Minister), and Frederick 3rd and last Viscount Melbourne. At the death of the latter the Melbourne estate passed to his only sister, Emily, married first to the 5th Earl Cowper, and secondly to the last Viscount Palmerston (the Prime Minister), and at her Ladyship's death, in 1869, it passed to her grandson, the 7th Earl Cowper, with whose permission the present publication of Papers preserved at Melbourne Hall has been made.

The repository of these Papers is an ancient hexagonal stone building, formerly the "Dove house" of the Rectors of Melbourne (the Bishops of Carlisle) which was skilfully converted into a "Muniment Room" in 1708 by Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE COKE FAMILY, OF MELBOURNE, CO. DERBY, BELONGING TO THE EARL COWPER, K.G., PRESERVED AT MELBOURNE HALL.

Vol. III.

(1701–2), March 11. (King's Newton).—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at Westminster, London.

I told John Harpur I was forced to promise as many liveries more for the next Assize. This may be thought as extravagant as the last disposal: and indeed the taking that with a grumble by Sir John [Harpur] was sufficient to damp any more meddling for a friend. But those common burgesses told me they had rather have a livery than 20*l.*, which made me propose this again: besides 'tis gratifying them with what is most talked of: and 'tis what may be done safe in Sir John's name, without reflection by a Committee. Therefore please to excuse me to him; though it need not be so chargeable as the present. I could heartily wish it could be done without it. If in Sir John's name forty paupers had each a 20*s.* grey coat, and quickly, it would do very well. I should be glad if the subscription for the [Common] Hall went on: I sent you mine long since. If not the grey coats, the High Sheriff must give money to each parish for the poor, which is what every Sheriff does at Derby. Your cousin Sir John Hartopp gave 50*l.* at an Assize at Leicester. I wish England prosperity, and your Flying Squadron the continued confusion the present sad occasion has brought them to. Walter Burdett, Colonel Guillam, Mr. William Sale, Old Bower, are just drinking "Curzon and Coke," "Stanhope and Harpur" at Ticknall. We drank the Queen's health. The Duke of Devonshire I hear sent an express to Mr. Gray, who set out Saturday last at 12 at night. It may be the other tradesmen will vote in expectation, viz., mercers and tailors, if an item be given them by John Harpur's agents at Derby. Perhaps you may enact to sit after the three years, as the Queen pleases.

(1701–2), March 18. London.—Earl of Chesterfield to Lady Mary Coke.

Since I writ to you last, dear daughter, (my gout being gone) the first time I went abroad I went with the impudence of an old courtier to pay my duty to Her Majesty; and, without anybody to introduce me, sent in my name, and was soon admitted into Her Majesty's closet, where there was nobody but Prince George. And after the having been received very graciously, and stayed a quarter of an hour, I took my leave, telling Her Majesty that I did not come upon the account of any business, but only to pay my duty, and therefore I would not detain Her Majesty any longer. My opinion is that, if Her Majesty would have no favourites, but choose a wise Council, and rely upon a Parliament, she might have so happy a reign as to eclipse that of Queen Elizabeth: but the event of all things depends on fate, or rather Providence. . .

Coke MSS.

I do not yet hear when the funeral of the late King will be, nor whether it will be public or private: nor when the coronation will be, which most people think will be put off till the next Session of Parliament: but others say that all these things will be fixed to-morrow at Council. . . . I hear that you are to be this summer at Wing, and I do not doubt but that by the next winter you will be fixed in town. . . . . I could wish that my daughter Wotton were here at the coronation, for then she would see the glory of England, and now all the town is in mourning, and there are no plays, as being all forbid. I do return you many thanks for all your kindness and good advice to Wotton, but one cannot make a velvet purse of a sow's ear (as the proverb says): and all your good advice to him, as well as mine, is but labour in vain. I have sent by the last post a very angry letter to Mr. Wilkins, because he assured me before I set him a work that the whole charge would be but 400*l.*, or at most 450*l.*, and he has received that sum already, and the work is not nigh done. Mr. Coke came just now to me, and told me that he has sent for you to town, because the House of Commons have made him one of the six commissioners for stating the accounts of the nation. This employment will be extremely laborious, continues but for one year, and the salary is but 500*l.* a year, which is no great matter for so continual an attendance: but I hope this will be an introduction to something that will be much better.

1701–2, March 21.—John Fisher to Thomas Coke, M.P., at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I hoped you would have been in Derbyshire before the assize, or have sent me some orders about defraying the charge of the last election. Mr. Garratt showed me his order from Mr. Curzon, which was to meet me and discharge everything immediately. Not having any letter from you nor money to pay with, and Mr. Hardinge pressing me so about meeting Mr. Garratt and paying off the Clerks and other bills, and finding if I discovered that I had not money, I should highly disoblige, I did not know what to do. From your tenants I could raise but 8*l.*, so I borrowed some of a friend (which I must pay again next week) and met Mr. Garratt and settled matters and paid as far as we then could. . . There is a great deal more to pay, which we cannot yet settle, some being very extravagant in their demands, and others we could not have account of. My Lord Hartington's friends have been very busy making interest for him and Mr. Eyre of Holm [?]. My Lord Hartington's name having been in the votes hath done him service. And here is a report that you moved that the abjuration oath might be compulsive, and was a promoter of that Bill: though most of your friends are satisfied it was a false report, yet it doth you prejudice. . . Your friends fear they will get ground in Scarsdale, if you and Mr. Curzon take not a speedy care. . . . I am not ignorant that I lie under your and my Lady's displeasure; and though I may not be so happy as to know the true reason thereof, nor have an opportunity to clear myself, yet am sensible my Lady is so often charging me with such things that if I be guilty of, I am not a proper servant for you. . . . Since I have great reason to believe that my leaving your service will be much to your and my Lady's satisfaction, I shall be ready to comply with your pleasure.

[Upon the back of this letter, Thomas Coke wrote—

"Persons writ to: Mr. Ald. Brookhouse, Mr. Low and Mr. Smith of Denbigh, Leo. Fosbrook, Mr. James Morris, Mr. F. Meynell, Mr. W. Burdett, Mr. Balghy, Mr. Akred, Mr. Coke of Trusley, Mr. Rob. Ashton, Sir Henry Every."]

1701–2, March 21. Derby.—Abraham Butler to Thomas Coke, M.P. COKE MSS.

At the last election for the county I and four brothers-in-law of mine all voted firm for yourself and Mr. Curzon, and I am sure that amongst us we made up the number of 30 besides ourselves amongst our acquaintance and friends; and it cost me something above twenty shillings in expenses for travelling charges several days; and besides this at the election Mr. Turner chose me to join with him as an inspector for three days. And now lately Mr. Fisher and some others have sent for all the attorneys in the town and rewarded them for their pains and left me the only forlorn. I believe the fault is Mr. Fisher's, by reason I once told him that his flustering tended more to your prejudice than interest when you lost it before.

1701–2, March 21. Leicester.—John Verney to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament.

We are like to have a great contest at our next election for this county for my Lord Roos and my Lord Sherard join against Mr. Wilkins and me. I hope you will this time be enough at leisure in Derbyshire to give us your assistance. Your estate at Melton is seated in the enemy's quarters; and therefore it will be a particular obligation to us, if you will dispose your interest in favour of Mr. Wilkins and your humble servant.

1701–2, March 23. Knowlehills.—Walter Burdett to Thomas Coke, M.P.

By the Votes of your House last Wednesday I find you are one of the Seven Wise Men in the opinion of the House: I wish you joy of your office, and long continuance in it. I hear in Leicestershire Mr. Verney and Mr. Wilkins intend to be candidates for that county, and that the county are as unanimous against my Lord Ross (Roos) as they were for him . . . The Lady Halifax (if you see occasion) should be spoken to about Mr. Horton, her steward of Winfield Manor, who though directed last election (I hear) did you and cousin Curzon not that service he should have done [unfinished].

(1701–2, March 23.)—John Wilkins to Thomas Coke at the House of Commons.

Pray speak to Lord Huntingdon with speed. He will not go with us, unless you can stem the tide. You can make him passive, and get him I hope. I shall stick fast to you in Darbyshire, notwithstanding your great opposers.

(1702, March 25.)—John Wilkins to Thomas Coke at London.

The country gentlemen have sewed Mr. Varney and myself together. Pray send to Melton to all your friends, for all the presbyterians are very busy. I wish you could send to Mr. Serjeant Bigland for he is not right to us.

1702, March 25. Hampton Town.—Edward Goudge to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Place.

I shall wait on you in a few days, in order to a settlement of all accounts: there will be no more to do but to deduct what you and Mr. Wright have paid from the last balance (which, I think, was about 44*l.*) and the remainder is the debt. But one thing more I humbly trouble you withal, viz., that whereas I have heard you are lately made one of the Commissioners of Accounts, you would be pleased to put me into some sort of business in that Office, that may be a livelihood, for that which I am in at present is prejudicial to my health. I suppose, Sir,

COKE MSS.

I need not tell you that for some years past, for want of money occasioned by the war, and by the use of ceiling painting, the employment which hath been my chiefest pretence hath been always dwindling away, till now it's just come to nothing.

1702, March 28.—Radbourne (signature gone) to Thomas Coke. [Indorsed by Mr. Coke, "Mr. Pole's man from Radbourne."]

Last week a servant of Mr. Wilmot's, of Osmaston, was here with Mr. Pole; I suppose to concert matters against the next election, because Mr. Pole then told him he could turn at least fifty who voted for you and Mr. Curzon last election. His past carriage doth sufficiently demonstrate his will to do it at this time, who is now as restless and busy as ever he was, before or since the last election. . . . . 'Twill certainly be necessary that no time be lost, considering the diligence of your opposers, to keep up that interest you have deservedly gained, that you meet with no disappointment next time. I have acquainted Sir N. Curzon herewith; and if at any time I perceive anything by Mr. Pole's movements that I think will do you any service, I will not fail to inform you thereof. But must beg it may be kept private, for there will be no peace if it comes to Mr. Pole's knowledge.

1702, March 30. Doncaster.—Charles Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P.

The signal instance that the public have given of its being sensible of your great worth might in reason be thought a prevailing argument to divert your former adversaries from making any further opposition on a subsequent election. But since it often happens that some inconsiderate men are influenced more by an unaccountable prejudice than the merit of a cause, it may not be amiss for your friends to be upon their guard: and in the number you may be confident to find me exerting, to the utmost of my possibles, the small interest I can make for your service.

1702, April 1. Derby.—William Brookhouse to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament.

The poor prisoners for debt within my custody have sent up a petition to the House of Commons for an Act for their releasement. I therefore at their request do make bold to acquaint you that I believe all their conditions to be so deplorable as requires your Honourable House to consider how to relieve them. . . . I do assure you it is as poor a gaol as any in the kingdom, and there are many who have remained here some years for debts of four or five pounds value which in all this time they never could raise money to pay. And most of those whose debts are greater have been willing to divest themselves of all they had in order to purchase reconciliation with their creditors, whose severity hath been such as to continue them here. If at liberty they might not only be a support to their respective families, but also take off a great burthen and charge from the county. So that I humbly desire you may be an instrument of this work of so charitable a nature, and promote such an Act as may release all those who are desirous to pay their last penny to their creditors: in doing which you'll not only do the greatest act of charity for them and their distressed families, but also a great piece of service to the country, which is at the charge of maintaining them.

1702, April 4. Derby.—G. Gregson to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I will with all my heart serve Mr. Curzon and you the best I can, and return my humble thanks for all your favours. Some of your friends seemed very much dissatisfied at the expression relating to

dissenters in the Address: but having not seen it, but only prejudiced by a false report, I sent them copies, which gave very good satisfaction when they saw how it was restrained. I have got Pickard arrested, who, rather than go to prison, hath acknowledged the fine wherein his wife also joined. I hear of no opposition or interest making against you: so I hope there will be no contest.

1702, April 4. (Glossop ?)—William Hodgkinson to Thomas Coke at the Parliament House in Westminster.

It hath been observed a great number of votes have come out of Glossopdale against you. There's one Waterhouse, and Wagstaff my Lord George Howard's bailiff, that are the great men amongst them. I question not but his Lordship is in your interest. I have heard my kinsman, Mr. Henry Bradshaw in the Custom House, highly commend him, who I am satisfied will most heartily espouse your side, both in this or any other matter. There are some in these parts will be for Lord Marquis Hartington, we fear; but you may depend on as many votes as you had in the last election. If you could, with conveniency, send us the least charge that would be expended in procuring a patent for a free school in our parish, 'twould very much oblige our neighbours as well as your most obedient servant.

1702, April 4. Thorp Constantine.—William Inge to Thomas Coke, London.

I might reasonable think your silence proceeded from the business of your new employment (which we are all much pleased withal) as now from those sweets you find in your Lady's conversation, but I attribute it only to the trouble my last gave you . . . for though there are few qualifications more glorious than those of the true poet, yet the nimis poeta is a character that nobody who has read Martial can be fond of . . . I am informed your neighbour the Lord Huntingdon makes all the interest he can for the two Lords, Com. Leic.

1702, April 7. Dublin.—G. (?) Vernon to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament in England.

A printed address to Members of the House of Commons, in which Vernon states that a Bill is preparing for relief of Mrs. Mary Vernon in reversing her attainder, and that a petition has been prepared by Mr. Thomas Carter in relation to the said Bill, and as he conceives it to be the design of some to misrepresent things, he attempts by a few lines either to prevent or remove the evils he is apprehensive of. Whereas Mrs. Mary Vernon was waived for high treason in Ireland in June 1696, Mr. Vernon absolutely denies that he was any wise soliciting or instrumental therein, or knew of it till February 1698–9 when he went for Ireland in order to revive his suit for the lands of Clontarf and Holybrooks, and was informed of the attainder, and was recommended to Mr. Thomas Carter, tenant of Holybrooks, as a fit person to direct him in prosecuting his right. Mr. Vernon explains the proceedings which have been had before the Trustees of the Irish forfeitures, and for the merit of his case refers to his petitions, &c. which have been laid before the House, and hopes that the Bill for the relief of Mrs. Mary Vernon will not be made to extend in prejudice of his right, nor the case be clogged by any pretentions of Mr. Carter till Mr. Vernon's petition and case and present allegations shall be considered by the House.

1702, April 11. The Rising Sun at Hockley in the Hole, London.—Patritius Horne to the Honble. Mr. Cooke at his house in St. James's Place.

COKE MSS.

I humbly thank you for the kindness you offer me in that you will recommend my ale to my Lady Marlborough. I have been preparing a small quantity of ale for the purpose which I will do myself the honour to present you with within this eight or ten days. I will only add that it was brewed within this ten days, which creates a fear in me that the newness of it may make it the less palatable.

(1702), April 20.—John Wilkins to Thomas Cooke at the House of Commons.

There is a place that is the Steward of the Honour of Leicester, that hath always been in some nobleman's hand till Mr. Carter had it. Now, Sir, Mr. Carter will go down stairs. If you please to take it yourself, or let not Sir John Leveson dispose of it till he hath found out a good man. If you will not accept of it yourself, send me word. I will commend a deputy to you: the place is but barely ten pounds a year. Pray acquaint Sir John Leveson with this, if he be Chancellor of the Duchy.

1702, April 20. Castleton.—Rev. Thomas Roe to Thomas Coke at the Parliament House Westminster.

I shall not be remiss in any service I can do in the next election. Mr. Balguy and I went above a month ago to a hamlet in this parish called Edal, where there are a great many votes. They some of them promised fair, but have so often deceived us, that I shall not very much depend upon 'em. They had money to bear their charges both the last elections, and will again I fear upon the same account prefer their private interest to the public good. But I am in hopes we shall not need 'em, for (as I am informed) Mr. Eyre says that the Marquis has made no interest, and he thinks will never stand candidate more. On this side no one has asked a vote for him yet. As to my own concern, I would not have been so troublesome, had I a competency here, or could I be easy with what I have. I have a catalogue of some livings in the Queen's and Lord Chancellor's gifts, which I have underneath sent you. If it be feasible to get a promise of the first of 'em that becomes void (as I am informed is frequently done on the like occasion) some one of 'em cannot but fall in a little time, most of the incumbents being aged persons. (A list of nineteen livings in five counties.) If you can put me into a likelier method, I shall take it as a great favour to hear from you.

1702, April 22. London.—John Coke to Thomas Coke at Mr. Burdett's, Knowlehills, near Derby.

(Sends reports of the town as to changes in offices of State and at Court.) We have lately had no mail from Lisbon. There are letters come by merchant ships which say that the men are sickly, very ill provided with provisions, hospitals, horses and field equipage. There are others that say there are several Grandees arrived in Portugal who give great assurance of carrying the point in Spain without bloodshed.

1702, April 25. On board Her Majesty's Ship the (*Monk Monck?*) now riding at an anchor at the Buoy in the Nore.—John Littill to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place, London.

. . . Blessed be God I am very well, hoping to Almighty God you are the same. We set sail from Smyrna the 2nd of January and arrived at the Nore the 12th of April. We had a very long voyage and very short of provisions, for we was at a quart of water a day and three pound of bread a week, for three months' time, which went very hard. Our ship's company was all imprest on board the ship. Sir,

this is to satisfy your Honour that we do expect for to sail for the Straits with all speed. This is the second letter I have sent since I have been on board, for to satisfy your Honour that Captain Smith hath been a great rogue to me all the voyage, and never taught me navigation nor nothing else, but what I took on my own head; which was but so much money and time lost. But now I am entered in pay as an able seaman 23*s*. per month; I do not question but in a little time to recover my lost time. I hope your Honour will be pleased for to order an answer to be writ for me.

1702, April 27.—A printed paper in the form of a play bill, having at the top the royal arms between the letters A. R. (Anna Regina).

At the Bear Garden in Hockley in the Hole, near Clerkenwell Green.

These are to give notice to all gentlemen, gamesters, and others that on this present Monday, being the 27th of April 1702, a great match is to be fought by a bald faced Dog of Middlesex against a fallow Dog of Cow Cross, for a Guinea each Dog, five let-goes out of hand, which goes fairest and furthest in wins all: being a General Day of Sport by all the Old Gamesters, and a great Mad Bull to be turned loose in the Game-place, with Fire-works all over him, and two or three Cats ty'd to his Tail, and Dogs after them. Also other variety of Bull-baiting and Bear-baiting. Beginning at two of the Clock.

[On a sheet, in which the above paper is enclosed, the following was written by the Honourable George Lamb, then M.P. for Dungarvan]:—

"This paper was read by me in the House of Commons in the Debate on the Second Reading of Mr. Martin's Bill 'Against Bear-baiting and other cruel Practices,' on the 11th of March 1825. The Bill was then thrown out by a Division of 50 to 32. I found the paper among Vice-Chamberlain Coke's letters at Melbourne Hall.—G. Lamb."

1702, April 29. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, at St. James's Place.

. . . Since my coming hither we have had many hard frosts and north winds, which have blasted most of my young peach trees, and taken away the hopes of our having almost any plums: but I hope that your trees at Melbourne, standing warmer, may have scaped much better, and that they will pay you such an annual tribute as may induce you to come and receive it, and at the same time oblige with your company, Sir, your most humble servant and most affectionate father.

1702, May 2. Shardlow.—Leonard Fosbrooke, Junior, to Thomas Coke, Member of the Honourable House of Commons, Westminster.

. . . I will do you and Mr. Curzon what service I can, but hope there will be no opposition. I believe 'tis only Mr. Serracold that stirs the coal and puts Derby men upon getting up an account for himself and some Londoners. Last week I forwarded three runlets of ale for you. They are shipped in Richard Harris, freight paid to London. I presume he may be at London by this time, if the report we have of privateers being upon our coasts have not hindered him.

1702, May 2. Ilam.—Captain J. Port to Thomas Cooke [Coke] to the House of Commons.

It being the opinion of most people here that there should be no Act of Parliament for a Pardon, yet the Queen will issue one of her own authority in a short time: which, knowing your acquaintance with the

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Lord Keeper, makes me entreat the favour of excepting notorious crimes in the clergy, as many of whom are become so profligate, that they are not only a scandal to the Church, but even to Religion. I am sure he with whom I am concerned is such. . . . Pray oblige me with a line or two the next post, whether you think there will be a pardon this summer.

1702, May 4. Knowlehills.—Walter Burdett to Thomas Coke, a Member of the Honourable House of Commons, Westminster. Free.

. . . By your command I have finished a bower upon your ground for cousin Nellie Curzon. It comes in all to 6*s.* 4*d.*, which is almost half as much as my rent, but I do not pretend to deduct, because stoppage is no payment. My Lord Chesterfield and Lady Catherine are come well down. You have a team of young ducklings wild upon your canal in Gorstey Leys: I think there is sixteen: and you have also six horses there, which, if you do not fence from the bower, will hinder the growth of the thicket about it. Sir, as in duty bound I am your observing gamekeeper, devout chaplain, and most humble servant.

1702, May 9. Ashborne.—Captain John Beresford to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I am desired by divers good friends in Cheshire to beg the favour of your good word to my Lord Keeper in behalf of a young gentleman, Mr. Swetenham. His ambition, who is just now at the bar, is to come into the Queen's Attorney's place for Cheshire and Flint; presuming Mr. Minshull, introduced by Sir John Mainwaring, and a violent creature of his, will scarce be thought worthy to continue in the place. If his small standing be thought an impediment, the present Mr. Minshull and his predecessor, Mr. Eaton, came both in when just at the bar: and Minshull by report continues as raw as he entered. The salary is but twenty marcs a year, with some perquisites, sometimes to be got by attendance at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions. The great advantage is the reputation it would give to a young man. . . . I perceive my Lord Abingdon and Sir Roger Mostyn are made friends in this matter.

(1702), May 18. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster, London. Free.

Your bay stoned horse has not yet been bridled and saddled since he came up: he is not, I think, 14 hands high, but is now pretty thick, and no other ways improved. If you would sell him for what a market would afford, I would buy him to make me a trotting pad. I do think that if he is trained to hunt, he never will pay to 30*l.*, or if he will be a pacer, no more: with which are hazards. But being a fine trotter, I would keep him for myself. Now the fancies of people may run higher, so pray do not disoblige yourself on my account: but if you had rather part than not, I'll take him at 20*l.* Mr. Troughton is my encourager. Your paddock sown with turnips will certainly be more useful to you than to set it this year. Mrs. Littill showed me a letter from her son John, on board the "Monck," wherein he says he is resolved either to have a gold chain, or a wooden leg, or die. He says he was pressed. I heard you had put him under Captain Giffard. I bid her be of good cheer. My Lady's dog Chance has lost his cough, and not nice of diet. Derby Coffee houses say J. How is put out of C. and retired into the country. Reports from your town are that the young M[arquis of Hartington] and Lord Roos also do stand, but our parts are seemingly yet quiet.

1702, May 20. (Chesterfield.) — Godfrey Watkinson and Paul Webster to John Curzon, Esquire, a Member of the Honourable House of Commons, Westminster.

. . . We are obliged to you for your ready assistance to obtain a convoy betwixt Hull and London; but we are afraid that those convoys that the Lord High Admiral speaks of, that have orders to touch at all ports, will do us little service at Hull. For in the beginning of the late war we had such general convoys, but we found but little benefit by them, for Hull is situate so far up Humber, being 20 miles at least from the mouth of the river, that when they had notice that a convoy waited for them there, and made all the haste they could down, yet it very often happened that the convoys were gone before they could get down, being sometimes hindered by contrary winds; and then the ships that came from other places proved to be gone, there being no convenient haven to put into thereabouts: so that when they came there and found the convoys gone, they were loath to get back, and durst not stay there, for fear of privateers, and so was tempted to run the hazard of going without convoy. Upon these considerations, and also considering that Hull is one of the chiefest towns of trade in England, the Lords of the Admiralty was willing to grant 'em a stated convoy, only to attend them, and other considerable places of trade as York, Gainsborough, Stockwith, Nottingham, &c. situate upon the Rivers Trent and Ouse. We are in hopes that when his Lordship is informed of the great necessity there is of their having a convoy only to attend them, his Lordship will be willing to grant one as formerly they have had. So we would desire that you and Mr. Coke would be pleased to try his Lordship once more about it.

1702, May 20. Nottingham.—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I am just now with Madam Firth at Nottingham who assures me Mr. Firth is in your and Mr. Curzon's interest: and that she will use her endeavours with Mr. Lander, late of Offreton (Alfreton), and on him depends one Mr. Huthwayte of Nottingham. Please to write to Mrs. Firth, and it may do more good.

1702, May 21. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

. . . I doubt that the want of rain will dry up all our fruit and the continued north-east winds have blasted many of my young bearing peach trees, which I believe is almost as great a disappointment to me, who do only pretend to be a gardener, as the missing of a place at Court is to the Lord F—— who I hear will not stick at any price to get one. I have enquired how things go at Melborn, and I am told that you have abundance of fruit, and that Mr. Wilkins is about casting a hundred yards of lead pipes to bring water into your garden, but I hear also that all the labourers and workmen there are discharged, which makes me doubt that we may expect but little of your company in the country.

(1702, May ?).—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Though I am always very unwilling to trouble my friends, yet I doubt, now you are engaged in business, I shall be desired by so many persons of quality to recommend their concerns to you that it will be an uneasiness to us both, and therefore I wish that you could furnish me with a general answer. I know how to turn off little people, but for persons of great quality they must be treated with more respect, and this is the occasion of my sending you the enclosed paper, and desiring to know what answer shall be made.

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[*Inclosure.*]—Duchess of Devonshire to Earl of Chesterfield.

The receipt I told you of my woman forgot to keep a copy of, else I had sent it you. . . . If your Lordship thinks it proper to speak in the behalf of a gentleman that I have from several people a good character of to Mr. Coke, I should be glad of it, having married a kinswoman of mine (I inclose the request), and if not inconvenient to comply will obleege your Lordship's faithful servant and sister.

1702, June 8. Chesterfield.—Godfrey Watkinson and Paul Webster to Thomas Coke, a Member of the Honourable House of Commons in Westminster.

We are mightily obliged both to yourself and Mr. Curzon for the trouble you have had in our concern about convoy, which so far as we can understand will not be of much service to the Hull ships. If the convoys that are coming up and going could put into Grimsby Road and stay there 24 hours for the Hull fleet, it will be of service sufficient for them: but that we believe cannot be expected, they having such a fleet of colliers to convoy, and the uncertainty of weather and winds will prevent them from coming by Humber at any certainty. Hull is the third port in the kingdom, and all the ships belonging to Trent (which are fifty at least) goes by benefit of the Hull convoy, besides what comes from York; so that certainly it is not unreasonable to expect one to attend that fleet. But if you think otherwise, rather than give you too much trouble, we will be content to take our lot with other people. I am informed that it will be moved my name be put with the Commission of Peace. I do assure you that I'm altogether unfit for it, and therefore beg you will be pleased to put a stop to it. G. Watkinson.

1702, June 10. Osmaston.—R. Wilmot to [Thomas Coke].

I presume there will speedily be a new Commission of the Peace for Derbyshire, and several gentlemen put in, and others displaced, amongst whom I hear Mr. Cotchet is one. I was desired by some to speak in his behalf, that he might be continued; and if it shall be thought proper so to do, I believe it would be taken very kindly. . . . Mr. Cotchet seems to be a good natured, moderate, gentlemanlike man, and I believe will [not] give disturbance in elections, &c., so I submit the matter.

(1702) June 14.—John Wilkins to Thomas Coke at Melbourne.

Mr. Verney and I do join our interest. Your best way to make your votes is to make what you can for us both. If you give me the preeminence, I shall ever acknowledge it as a favour. If you can't make two votes in one man, make one either for Verney or Wilkins. Make it for Verney, if it be against me, for I will serve Mr. Verney heartily. Lord Stamford is not against us. I thought you had something else to do than make Parliament men. I find you choose well: any body would be glad to be unmarried, that you might choose for them. Good luck and a boy.

1702, June 19.—R. Hardinge to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

As to Mr. Allen, I have heard that both the horses were blind, or near it, before Lady Mary went away; and I know nothing of their legs or feet. I think he has kept home very strictly, except when Mr. Wilkins has used him, and been very sober in the lieutenancy. You must be sure that Sir P. G., W. E., R. W., and S. P. are always in the country, and always appear in businesses, and often Sir C. P. To these there should be a majority always to appear, of as good quality

and estates, and then there will be no jarring. As to Mr. C[otchett], I have not seen Mr. Wilmot, but will speak to him. There has been a report that Sir J. Harpur joined with Lord Hartington, spread about Winster, &c. Pray let it be dissipated by Sir John's letter to Henry Harpur and his friends thereabouts . . . I think the Derby freeholders should all be speedily spoke to by Mr. Curzon, and writ to by you in a number of letters . . . Your friends in Peake, Scarsdale, and Appletree must be diligent: our Hundred and this nether side will not I think stir from you. John Beresford and Port, &c. will be at Bakewell. Pray send the Justices a buck and dish of fish, and get what gentlemen you can there. I think the Sessions will be at Bakewell the 14th of July. Probably by that time you will be there; Mr. Curzon I suppose will . . . I am very much obliged to Lady Mary for her kind remembrance of me by Mr. Curzon. Her dog Chance has lost his cough, and is very nimble, and can scarce leave a full meal when I give it him . . . I have always observed you give my Lady H[arpur] an epithet, viz., fine, young, or the like, but it has I suppose no other effect upon you than to show your great civility. I should now be extremely pleased to do Sir John the service of assisting him to my power in anything that he has occasion for. The little horse is now at Foremark pacing with John Burdett's. The poll at Derby, and the assessing stock may engage freeholders. Sir Henry Every and my Lady are in Worcestershire. Sir Robert has put away the Scott Chaplain for not praying for Queen Nanny.

(*On the same Sheet.*)

1702, June 19. Foremark.—We are drinking your health (Signed), John Burdett: J. Curzon: D. Burdett: R. Hardinge: Eliz. Jodrell: Walt. Burdett: Robert Burdett: F. Hopegood. You may judge J. B. mad: of six cubs, secured for the country's good, three are dead and three run away. John Burdett had rather have drunk to you in Donisthorpe water. I fear he must go almost to hell for it. And then you must expect from him a treatise of visions: the well being now about twenty yards and no water.

1702, June 22. Brampton Moor.—Godfrey Watkinson to Thomas Coke, a Member of the House of Commons . . . Westminster.

I received your letter and am extremely obliged to you. I am every way unfit for it, else would not have refused to serve the Government. As for a convoy, we are very well satisfied that you have omitted nothing, and therefore we must wait till they be fitted with ships and men that they have occasion for. We are informed that the Lord Hartington's friends are making interest against a new election, but they do it privately. I fancy, if he has any hopes of succeeding, he will stand again, and the dissenters are apt enough to give him encouragement. I believe they are sensible that it's in vain to offer anything against you, and so their design must be to throw out Mr. Curzon. If they do proceed, I think your presence amongst us would be very serviceable to Mr. Curzon. I once hinted to you that perhaps the Duke of Leeds might make some interest in the far side of our Hundred, viz., about Beighton, Killamarsh, Balborough, Whitwell, or thereabouts: but, however, he could influence Colonel Gell who brought in ten or twelve votes to the last election from Sheffield side. . . I think Sir Benjamin Bathurst should be more positive in his letter to Mr. Allison than he was in his last.

1702, June 27. Kedleston.—John Curzon, M.P., to Thomas Coke, M.P., in St. James's Place, London.

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I was at Ashburne fair on Wednesday last, where I saw several of our friends. I cannot learn that Lord Hartington finds any encouragement, or intends to stand. Mr. Berisford told me that he was with some men of Carrfield that voted for the Lords the last election. And they had promised him to vote for us, and make what interest they can for us. My father writes that I should secure Lord Shrewsbury's tenants by Mr. Arden. I have no commission from Lord Shrewsbury, so that all I can do with Mr. Arden is to entreat him by letter from myself that he will be so kind to prevail with my Lord's tenants to vote for me. As soon as the Parliament is dissolved, 'twill be necessary for us to acquaint our friends with it by circular letters. Be pleased to consider whether we should write singly, or send letters signed by both. You have a list of mine of the foreign votes: pray send it me down. Your kinsman Mr. Pole is in London; he went out of the country much displeased: taxes don't go according to his mind. I am still of an opinion that the greatest service and favour that could have been done for our country would have been to have turned that worthy gentleman and some others out of the commission of deputy lieutenants.

1702, July 5. Alderwasley.—C. Hurt to Thomas Coke in St. James' Street.

I understand you are desirous to have me act in the Commission of the Peace in our county. I hope you will find older heads than mine for that troublesome office. At present I think mine too young, and desire you to excuse me. I shall be ready to serve you and my country in the condition I am in to the utmost of my power. My Lord Hartington's agents are very still about us, which makes me think you will have no trouble with them the next election.

1702, July 6. Ashborne.—Captain John Beresford to Thomas Coke, M.P., at his house in Spring Garden, near Charing Cross.

. . . His Grace at Chatsworth mentions the putting by his son last time to several that go, and that his son is ready to serve his country, if they think fit to choose him: but does not say he shall stand, and I presume he has not yet met with sufficient assurance, that he shall be chose, so I hope this election may be a quiet one. As to what you write about the mines, 'tis plain truth upon Sir Philip Gell. He thinks to avoid the censure by not acting: but he does but hide his head, the body is seen. It hath placed me in a great deal of difficulty, which however I hope may so end as neither to impair your interest nor my own credit with them. For the great mine of Rockwood, instead of adding a three pence to the last year, we have abated half, so that instead of 213*l.* they are taxed but 80*l.*, and I am confident are not displeased. The rest I daresay we can please, all unless where Sir Ph. Gell is concerned, and these I least regard. But I hope now that Parliament is dissolved you will shortly be down, and then I shall give you a full account. In hopes of seeing Sir John Harpur sooner I have omitted to beg his interest in Cheshire for Sir Roger Mostyn and Sir George Warburton. If he be not come out of town I beg you will procure his letter to go down by next post to his agents in Cheshire, that his interest may attend and be disposed of by Mr. Brooke, the son of Sir Richard Brooke (because there are more of the name), who lives near Chester and Sir John's estate. We hear a discourse in the country that Mr. Cotchett is likely to retire with Mr. Spateman out of business which I am sorry for; he is much resorted to and well spoken on by our neighbours about Ashborne. I suppose him one of the best of the gang and could wish he might be spared.

1702, July 8.—John Verney to Thomas Coke.

Mr. Wilkins and I are extremely obliged to you already for the interest you have made for us in this county: and it would be of the greatest consequence imaginable to us, if your affairs would permit you to honour us with your company at the election. We have a great many persons towards Melton side that will vote for us; but the power of the two Lords has carried off from us all the gentry of that part of the country. So that if you would please to permit the freeholders from that part of the country to attend you into Leicester, your presence would give great reputation to us, and encouragement to our friends: and I am sure we have number sufficient in those parts to make a very considerable figure if they could have the honour to be conducted by a person of your quality.

1702, July 16. (London.)—J. Bromley to Thomas Coke, at the Earl of Chesterfield's, Bradby (Bretby).

I am glad you are like to have no opposition; and heartily wish the noble Lord may meet, where he is gone, with some gentleman of as much courage and conduct as yourself to disappoint him there too. I presume his brother will make nothing of it in your neighbourhood, nor more at Westminster. We have no news; only Sir J. Munden has been tried and is acquitted; and 'tis reported Lady Rook, who has had a fever in her lying-in, is dead. For want of other subject, I must entertain you, how I am employed. Captain Cartwright will vouch for me I am not idle. He and I examine Lord R[anelagh's] accounts, and hope to be able to make you a report at our meeting. I keep the accounts, and part not with them out of my sight, that I may be able to answer none of the vouchers are embezzled or diminished.

1702, July 18.—John Akrod to Thomas Coke, at Melbourne.

I received a letter from Mr. Curzon and yourself concerning your resolutions of standing for members. You may assure yourselves of my utmost endeavours. Sir Nathaniel Curzon's servant, who brought your letter, was making inquiry what money I had laid out. I find I have disbursed 7*l.* I made bold last winter to hint to you to show some kindness to the freeholders in Ashover, because what was done in other places was very kindly taken. Mr. Watkinson treated the freeholders in Brampton at his own house, and I did the like at Somershall by Mr. Clarke's order. . . . If you and Mr. Curzon think fit to do anything hereafter and please to let me know it, I shall readily obey your commands. I could wish Mr. Curzon's occasions would have given him leave to have been at Chesterfield at this time, when he might have been acquainted with some Scarsdale friends to whom he is yet a stranger.

1702, July 20. (London.)—J. Bromley to Thomas Coke, at the Earl of Chesterfield's at Bretby, in Derbyshire.

We have wanted you more than I expected. Mr. St. John came to town on Saturday night, but Mr. Brydges is not yet arrived. . . . We hear nothing further from the Earl of Oxford, or Ranelagh. The latter has given way to Sir Thomas Littleton at Castle Rising, and I believe will not be elected anywhere. which must be a mortification. Mr. How has prevailed for the City of Gloucester, and his friends are not out of hopes for his success in the county. However we are sure to have him, which grieves some people more than all the other elections in our favour. You'll judge by the printed lists how well they go, and I hope others whom it most concerns will consider what little help has been given us, and from thence make a right judgment of the true

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strength and interest of this kingdom. Lord Hartington, we heard could not have carried his election, if Lord F. had not desisted.

1702, July 21. (London.)—J. Bromley to Thomas Coke, at the Earl of Chesterfield's.

I am very glad your town election is so well over, and hope yours will be with as little trouble. Lord J. is not like to prevail here, nor Sir A. C. But what will be most welcome, I can assure you Mr. Howe is elected at Bodmin, in the room of Mr. Russell Roberts: I saw it last night under the Bishop of Exon's hand and that he had recommended him at the request of Dr. Jane. As to your staying in the country to attend the Leicestershire election, you are a public person, and I think may very well consider which may be most for the public interest. I believe Mr. Brydges and Mr. St. John will be this week in town, and then we can make a Board. Sir W. Glyn is chose at Woodstock by 28. Sir J. Packington is chose with Ja. Herbert for Aylesbury.

1702, July 25.—Lord Keeper Sir Nathan Wright to [Thomas Coke].

I have lately received a letter from the Duke of Devonshire, wherein he complains of the new Commission of the Peace for Derby: and more particularly for leaving out Mr. Spateman and Mr. Cotchett, both, as he says, men of estate and very active and useful justices in the country, and for putting in Mr. Brook Boothby and Mr. John Beresford, the last a known Jacobite, and neither of them of any estate, or other good qualities to recommend them to the Commission. I am unacquainted with them all, and a stranger to them, and therefore cannot give any answer to his Grace, until I am enabled by you and your brother members of that country, by whose advice I made the alterations. Therefore I desire of you the favour to enquire into the circumstances of these four gentlemen, and give me a perfect account of them in a post or two. I hope by this time I may wish you joy of your re-election to serve in Parliament. I hear Mr. Harpur is chosen at Derby town. The elections hitherto give hopes of a true Church of England Parliament.

1702, July 30. From the Camp at Peear (?).—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke.

I have received my commission from my Lord Mallberow (Marlborough): as soon as I presented your letter, it was granted, which I restore you many thanks for. My Lord Mallberow presents his service to you, as per his orders in my letter. I am in Sir Bevil Grinfield's (Granville's) regiment, and a few lines of recommendation from you will do me a great kindness to the Lieutenant Corronall. . . . I cannot have the money from my brother out of the country so soon as I want it, for to buy me a tent, a bed, a baggage horse and a gold sash, which the Corronall says that I must buy these things. I desire in the mean time 20*l.* till I hear from my brother, which I desire per first post.

1702, August 5. Leicester.—William Inge, J. Wilkins to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Place, London.

Our friends are returned, the numbers as follow:

Ross 2,010, Sherard 2,054, Verney 2,437, Wilkins 2,475.

The subscribers drink your health.

1702, August 8. Derby.—Walter Horton to [Thomas Coke].

Those that by their own merits, and by the discerning power of the wisest princes are raised to the highest honours have one way left

of rising higher, if they graciously look down with a generous, nay (I may have leave to call it) a divine compassion upon those beneath them. I would therefore make a humble request to you and beseech your interest with my Lord Keeper to recommend me to the next vacancy of a Canon Residentiary place in the Cathedral Church of Gloucester. If it were not for Tully's reason that an epistle cannot blush, I should be ashamed of this address to you, which nothing but your condescending humanity could have justified. All good men seriously triumph in my Lord Keeper's deserved advancement, and earnestly wish him a long and a vigorous health, an increase of honour, and a late, a very late, most blessed immortality. And permit me to pray that you may long continue what you really are, a support to the Church, and an ornament and defence to the State, and a patriot to all honest men.

1702, August 22. Sutton.—Lord Scarsdale to Thomas Coke at St. James's Place.

I do not doubt but you have already had information of the displeasure of our Lord Lieutenant in relation to the alterations made in our Commission of the Peace. I am told by several people that he is almost as uneasy under Captain Berrisford being put in, as Mr. Spateman's being left out. I thought fit to give you notice, that you might prepare my Lord Keeper against any attack made upon him; which must be quietly done, for his Grace is upon the road, and, though he did design to stay some days in Neadwood Forest, I do imagine that the Queen's going to the Bath may hasten him to wait upon her, before her journey thither. As for the Captain, you cannot say too much in his behalf, for he is a man every way deserving, and I am sure sufficiently qualified as to estate. As to Spateman, you cannot say too much in the reverse. I can affirm it to you from the information of the next neighbours that he is a constant frequenter of conventicles, and caused a meeting-house to be built for that purpose at Alfreton: which of itself is exception enough to be made to a Queen, who has so fully declared herself for the Church of England. Pray acquaint my Lord Nottingham with this, and get him to speak to the Queen about it, for if by any inadvertency Spateman should get in again, it would be a blow to the honest gentlemen here, and to the interest now made never to be recovered.

1702, August 31. Locko.—Henry Gilbert to Thomas Coke, one of the Commissioners for Public Accounts at the Office in Spring Garden, London.

Your civility and kindness to your friends doth but embolden them to give you fresh trouble, to confirm which this comes to solicit your interest in behalf of a kinsman of my father's and mine to be Master of the Stamp Office at Exeter: his name is William Holbech. He has got my Lord Willoughby of Brook's letter to Mr. Bromley. . . I beg you also to consider of that matter Mr. Gregson and I spoke to you about relating to the coinage of halfpence for Ireland, and to give us your assistance in it.

1702, September 12. From the Camp.—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke, Piccadilly, London.

That money I had of Mr. Francis Wright was 20*l.*; he knows I did pay 10*l.* of it away in London, and 10*l.* I had left for to bring me to Holland, when I went from Williamstart (Willemstadt) to the Hague to wait on my Lord Mallberow. I was forced to stay there a fortnight before I could come to the Camp, and when I came to the Camp, I was

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six weeks before I received my commission. I was forced to borrow money to pay my charges. Pray judge whether 20*l.* will buy me a scarlett suit, and a horse, tent and bedding, and pay for my commission. I beg the favour of you that you will speak to my brother, or else I shall not have it.

1702, September 25. N.S. Camp at Sutendal.—Richard Pope to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at St. James's Place, London.

I would have answered your favour last Thursday, but having a prospect of sending you an account of the surrender of Venloo by this: having the same day a letter from Fred. Cornwallis, with a relation of their taking the Fort St. Michel, on this side the river, by storm, when the besieged thought they could scarcely make a lodgment on the counterscarp. And that with very little loss on our side, our men behaving themselves so that no one that was there could with modesty express, nor no one that was not, believe. This so frighted the besieged that they have surrendered the town without standing an assault, falsely imagining the besiegers designed a general one, when they only were preparing for a feu de joie for the taking of Landau. I do not yet hear the articles, but my Lord Marlborough is just gone to meet some of the States, and I believe they will be public tomorrow. It was reported that they have quitted Ruremond but my Lord does not believe it. By these things you may judge what probability there was of success when we might have engaged with a superiority of number on our side: no stone walls, nor any impediment but a morass in Mr. Dopt's noddle. But my Captain will give you this winter a better account of these matters than I can pretend to do, being chosen by my Lord for his aide-de-camp, the day of that designed engagement, and has been employed by him ever since in the most important affairs of that sort, and has since given him a brevet of lieutenant colonel: he gives you his humble respects.

1702, September 26..—John Howe to Thomas Coke at St. James's Place.

I received your favour the day before I left Bath. I know not what the waters will do for my health, but I have found very little pleasure there; that perhaps may come from my own, and not the dullness of the place, where a world of materials for it were present. We had no intrigue talked on, whether the world be more virtuous or more discreet, I know not: in so much that we have them from London. Amongst which a certain gentleman with Mrs. K. is mentioned, to whom I wish every success he desires. Your relation of the two ladies' treatment of Lord D. I found very pleasant. I hope you are provided with good entertainment for us next Sessions from your Board. I do not think to be in town before the 20th taking for granted there will be no struggle about a Speaker. There was a design amongst the enemy to set up Col. Granville to divide us, but that is too foolish a project to be attempted.

(1702?), October 10. Dorney Court, Windsor.—Gilbert Clarke to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, in St. James's Place, London.

. . . I may suppose you are not ignorant that the Governor of Maryland has left that place. Among the rest who make all their interest for such an important thing is Sir Thomas Lawrence, whose character is reported extraordinary; and whose name is not unknown to the Queen for his second son was captain and playfellow to the

Duke of Gloucester, much beloved by him and then the Princess. He was afterwards lost with the Carlisle ship. The thing that I desire is that you would make what interest you can with my Lady Fletcheville about this concern. I believe my Lord Rochester and the Bishop of London have promised their endeavours. . . . It is but duty to do what one can for our friends.

1702, October 12. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Your favour of the 6th instant brought me the first news of our ill success at Cales, which I confess was beyond expectation, there being no army to oppose us. I do not doubt of the trouble it has given to all the kingdom, but it must in particular have been the greatest affliction imaginable to the poor Duke of Ormond, to have so great a design miscarry under his conduct. I confess I wish myself at London to be informed of all the particulars of it. . . . Some of my bailiffs have not yet brought my rents, but do hope very soon to embrace you at London.

(1702), October 12. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at the Office for Public Accounts in Spring Garden, London.

Winter comes on: therefore please to let your man, John Gardiner, buy me one of Colonel Wilson's coach lantherns, and I'll pay him for it. I think the stick is about 6 foot long, and screwed on at the head. The Mayor of Derby invited Sir John [Harpur] and Sir Nat. Curzon, Mr. Curzon, Walter Burdett, Mr. Harpur, me and some more. I suppose it was about the Navigation. I had business in town, so saw but little of them after dinner. But Mr. Alex. Stanhope drank prosperity to the Corporation, so I suppose he is satisfied. Mr. Curzon set outs for town to-day: but goes by Penn. Mr. Harpur will not be in town till Monday night, going by Mr. Warren's. I was at Chesterfield Sessions: I do not hear that J. Fitzherbert, or they of that side, will act. I hear Henry Gilbert will. Sir Charles [Pye?] acts at Derby: so that Mr. Cotchett's place is supplied. Mr. Cantrell of Hartshorne was there indicted for sheepstealing, together with his man. His man was then committed till the assizes. Mr. Cantrell was frighted so as to abscond; but I did him the favour to get an order to bail him till the assizes, which is done. He lays the fault on J. Wilkins, and says 'tis a party cause: but in truth he is an accessory post factum, and a rascal, which you need [not?] be told.

1702, October 24. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster, London.

Several of your Derby friends are very uneasy about the Commissioners for the Land Tax, especially at Mr. Burrows, who they say is partial and very oppressive to them, and is the chief promoter of it. I hope Mr. Curzon and the Burgesses will find a way to leave him out: and that there may be a number in Derby qualified to act, as will balance your enemies there. The list will inform you, and I hope it will not be forgot. The gentlemen that serve for the town may readily imagine that the tradesmen must comply in humouring this set of Commissioners, when they have so considerable a power over them, as the assessing personal estates, and making what assessors they will. I hope you will receive good Lady Mary in good plight next Thursday, and that John Gardiner will remember the lanthern.

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(1702), October 29. St. Lawrence, near Liége.—Lieutenant Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I suppose you have had an account of our marching here, and of the French having abandoned the town upon our approach: as likewise the taking of the citadel on Monday last by storm. We began to fire yesterday on the Charterhouse Fort, which is this day surrendered on honourable terms, the garrison to be conducted to Antwerp, with two small pieces of cannon. I believe we shall march towards quarters in four or five days: our is the Buss (Herzogen Bosch). I think I cannot come for England this winter; Colonel Sibourg designing to go over, and the Cornet there already. But I do not fear wanting friends as long as you and he are there. If there be any new raised forces, I should be glad to be amongst them, if I could have a post worth while. If there be to be any, I reckon you will know as soon as anybody, therefore pray think, dear Sir, of your most obedient servant.

1702, November 8. Geartenden Bord (Gertruidenborg).—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's.

I have not heard from my brother since you writ to Lieutenant Pope that my brother would provide money for me. What money I owe for my commission and tent and carrying baggage is stopped out of my pay, now that I am come to garrison, all at once, so that I shall have nothing to live on all this winter. I am as poor as Job, and I must buy me bedclothes, and gold sash and silk scarf, and a great many things. Here is a gentleman in the regiment that laid down the money upon honour; if I don't pay him, it will stain my reputation. . . . It will cost 50*l.* to acquit me. This bearer is a Captain in my regiment and if you think fit to pay him what money I shall have, it will be paid here per his order.

1702, November 8. Thorp Constantine.—William Inge to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, one of the Commissioners of the Accounts of England.

. . . . At this juncture I could not but congratulate with and thank you for the vote concerning the impeached, and your order for a Bill to prevent Occasional Conformity. They have something in them too reviving not to be thought of, and if thought of something too great not to be thanked for. I question not but our Patriots will now be as successful as our Generals, and St. Stephens yield as many laurels and blessings as Vigo has done. In short we are all transported in the glorious scene of our affairs, and bless and thank the procurers of them. Go on, great Patriots, with the noble undertaking of retrieving our Church as well as State, be great as you are good, and may all your enemies be ours and truckle to your worth and our wishes. Did I not know our concerns cannot dispense with the loss of you for a minute, I could scarce stop the pleasing current of my thanks and praises.

1702, November 11. Somershall.—John FitzHerbert to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster. Free.

I most thankfully acknowledge your kind remembrance in sending the Votes, and for so long as you are pleased to continue the favour, I could wish they were directed by Uttoxeter bag, Staffordshire. Our late success at sea, together with the seeming unanimity of the House of Commons in their just proceedings, will make the country more cheerfully undergo the burden of taxes, which at this juncture lie very heavy by reason of the lowness of our markets for all commodities that relate to the farmers.

1702, November 27. Newgate.—Thomas [Watson Bishop of] St. David to the Honourable Mr. Coke, a Member of Parliament.

Being this day advised of your great and generous charity in considering the case of an oppressed persecuted Bishop, I thought it my duty to make my acknowledgments, and assure you whatever characters malice and calumny have given me, I always did and shall endeavour to approve myself an honest Englishman and Bishop of the Church of England. I should be too troublesome to relate how long and much I have suffered from the Archbishop's assumed power, warranted neither by law nor precedent, as well as injustice in condemning me for crimes I always abhorred and detested. I bless God for the supports I have had from him, and a good conscience which is as clear and free from the crimes he hath fastened upon me as I was when I went first to Cambridge; and nothing but his Grace's will and pleasure make me guilty. I have been, Sir, near twenty-three weeks a prisoner, upon the Archbishop's significavit for not paying my lawful costs, which he, upon the belief of the adversary's books, taxed at 603*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, which according to the table of fees, as I am informed, would not exceed 100*l.* But his Grace may as well tax damages under the name of costs, as what he hath done: who hath doomed me to deprivation, and hath thereby punished me in my credit and reputation, and in my estate and liberty. I humbly own the undeserved favour to a man who is a precedent, and the first instance of suffering in many respects.

1702, December 5. Overton.—William Hodgkinson to Thomas Coke, at the Parliament House, Westminster.

I humbly thank you for your continued favours in sending me the Votes, which I communicate to as many of my neighbours as desire to see them. We are very much hindered in the working of our lead mines by the parson who hath some lands and properties in grounds adjoining to our said works, and will not suffer us to work them as others of our neighbours most willingly suffer us: although we have offered him as good terms as any other of our neighbours whatsoever. By which obstinacy in him many of our workmen having nothing to do, and by which our parish in particular is a great sufferer: so would intreat you if practicable to get the inclosed put into the Poor Bill, and the charge that attends it shall be most gratefully paid you.

(Draft clause. To make an agreement in writing signed by two thirds at least in number and value of proprietors of grounds in or through which mines of minerals or soughs are carried binding on all other proprietors of such grounds.)

1702, December 7.—John Akrode to Thomas Coke at the House of Commons.

At the desire of Mr. John Newham of Whittington I give you this trouble. He is much concerned at the design of making Derwent navigable, because of his estate lying a considerable length by the side of it. When this matter was formerly in agitation, he received a letter from the Corporation to preserve him from damage. He requests that if the Bill do pass there may be such a clause in it.

1702, December 23. Locko.—Henry Gilbert to Thomas Coke, House of Commons.

I did expect the Bishop of Lichfield would have presented you before now with a Bill concerning Tithes. . . . When you receive it, I intreat you to move the House for leave to bring it in. . . . The Bill is very harmless: it will take nothing from any man: only makes it more easy

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for good men, who incline to restore any tithes to the Church, by making them descend as inheritances at the common law, and by curbing the statutes of mortmain in that case only. I recommend the management to you and the success to Providence.

1702, December 28.—Michael Burton to Thomas Coke, House of Commons.

The occasion of this trouble is upon the account of my old cousin Hurt of Alderwaslee. There is a Nonconformist gentleman, who is, I think, by place, a messenger to the Lords of the Treasury, that for fear of the Act to prevent Occasional Conformity, is resolved to sell his place, and has offered the refusal of it to my cousin Hurt's second son, who married a relation of the said gentleman. I think he asks 400*l.* or 500*l.* for it, and pretends it to be in salary and perquisites nearly 300*l.* a year. . . . My cousin Hurt, being not willing to lay out so large a branch of his child's fortune without information and encouragement of some judicious friend, pitched upon you as a person whom he thought both capable and ready to do him such a kindness: and being not able himself by reason of the gout, ordered me to acquaint you with the matter and request the favour of you to make an enquiry into the nature of the place, &c. . . . I beg you will favour me with your opinion of the aforesaid Bill, whether you think it will have strength to travel through the House of Lords, and make any vacancies considerable. There is a friend of yours would venture 1,500*l.* upon such a post as you would advise him to. An untoward indisposition had near deprived Wirkesworth Hundred of a justice of peace and you of a staunch vote, but I compounded with Death for an old woman, and so he let me alone for this time. This Bill has so envenomed all the Presbyterians that they are making all imaginable interest underhand against you and Mr. Curzon against the next election.

1702–3, January 3. Dublin.—Isaac Manby to [Thomas Coke].

The inclosed is the report from the committee appointed to inspect Sir William Robinson's accounts, and upon which the censure of the House upon him was grounded; it was sent me this morning by the clerk . . . . We have little news here, my Lord Duke, being at Kilkenny, will return on Wednesday next. We yesterday lost another Commissioner of the Revenue, Mr. Carleton: Mr. Van Homrigh died the Thursday before: by which there are two vacancies in that Commission, and at least forty pretenders to fill them. Those that are gone were noted men for diligence and good management. I wish them well succeeded for the public service.

1702–3, January 11. Locko.—Henry Gilbert to Thomas Coke at the House of Commons.

You have very much obliged me with your opinion about the Tithe Bill. How it is now worded, I know not; but it was never my intent to have the Statute of Mortmain totally repealed, but only restrained as to this Bill. However I am content that it follow the pattern of that you mention in the late reign, "For encouraging Charitable Gifts to Colleges and Schools." . . . We are yet in the dark as to a new Sheriff, which some fancy will be fixed either upon Sir Charles Pye or me: but I beseech you do what kindness you can to divert it.

1702–3, January 27.—Robert Child to Thomas Coke.

In your letter you are pleased to call that a civility, which a grateful sense of the many obligations which my father and I owe to his Lord-

ship [the Earl of Chesterfield] commanded from me. The picture cost me 111 guineas, and I shall not ask my Lord any more for it, but think myself very happy that I have this opportunity of pleasuring his Lordship by it. I beg you to acquaint his Honour with this.

[On this letter Mr. Coke endorsed "The Lanfranc picture."]

1702-3, February 1. Lichfield.—Lord Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P.

This is to acquaint you that Sir Clement Fisher (who is my intimate friend) is now pricked down Sheriff for Warwickshire; and I shall take it as a favour if you will go to the Lord Nottingham from me, and tell him that if he pleases to get my friend Sir Clement off, I shall take it as a very singular favour at his hands. I would not give you this trouble, but that I have formerly had the honour to be very well known to his Lordship, and sent him several beagles; so that perhaps, with the help of your countenance, I may succeed. . . . I thank you for the poetry, which I am informed the noble Colonel had a hand in.

1702-3, February 23. Shackerstone.—T. Hall to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Street, near St. James's House.

When I was to wait on you about my miller's mare taken up in your manor of Castle Donington I had other business with a servant of yours, Mr. Alleyne. Since his so many breaches of promise I am now forced to inform you of the whole matter. Mr. Alleyne, some little time before you was pleased to take him into your service, was entertained and taken into the house of one Richard Holland of Twycros, an old cook and one that sells a pot of ale, the said Mr. Alleyne being at that time almost naked and not looked upon but rejected of all his relations, but pitied by the said Richard Holland who bought for him clothes, shirts, boots, shoes, and all other necessaries, as also finding him meat, drink, washing, and lodging during almost a year and a half. And in consideration of such entertainment he gave to the said Richard Holland several notes for payment which are all discharged but two of 14*l*. Since you was pleased to stand for a member in Parliament for the County of Derby, when I was to my power instrumental in sending you votes out of Leicestershire, Mr. Alleyne sets the law at defiance, pretending your protection as being your servant, which I cannot believe you will grant to any person when you are informed of villainy in the case. But before I caused him to be arrested I thought it proper to acquaint you with the whole matter. Holland is a very poor man and almost ready to fall upon the town for relief, which makes me trouble you with my humble petition, hoping you will not grant him your protection.

(1702-3), February 27. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, or at the Office for Public Accounts, in Spring Garden, London.

When I was the other day at the adjournment of the Sessions, to qualify Mr. Eyre, Sir Phillip Gell, Sir C. Pye, Mr. Willmott, and Mr. Spateman for Deputies, Mr. Eyre was telling me that your tenant, Thomas Eyre, had hanged three or four brace of bucks. I judge it will put my Lord [of Rutland] upon the fret to do you what mischief he can: and if you have not heard of it before, you may speak to Thomas Bagshaw. I wrote to you some time since about an exchange of one acre three roods of land. You do not return answer. My hope is that you are wholly taken up, but now you will have some recess. I fear you will lose 30*l*. by the miller.

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1702–3, March 6.—Michael Burton to Thomas Coke, Member of the House of Commons at his house in St. James's Place, London.

Since my last to you I received a letter from my brother dated from Gertrudenberg inclosed in another from one Captain John Menger who it seems, upon Captain Dove's recommendation, lent my brother 25*l.* to buy him a tent, a gold scarf and a silk one, a horse and other things. . . . I design to return a 50*l.* bill to you in order to discharge my promise to the Captain, whom I will write to wait upon you. The 25*l.* the Captain is to have will make my brother's former receipts from me just 100*l.*, part of the 200*l.* assigned by my father's will for his portion: and the remainder of the 50*l.* bill I desire may be disposed of for him as you in your discretion shall appoint. . . . As to the matter of Mr. Statham I only gave you a hint to beware of him in case of any election matter for the future. I am very well satisfied that he has been very much pressed into my Lord H[artington]'s interest, and has had very great matters promised him upon that account: and I knew his ambition and avarice to be such that he could forsake his best friend to promote them. As to my own particular . . . I will only tell you he has particularly vilified me behind my back in relation to my office of justice of the peace, and telling several persons of the great and earnest applications I made to be put into the Commission, thereby insinuating the particular advantages I would make by the place. Should he get no more by his profession he might put his profits in his eye. He very frequently applies the verses in Hudibras, in relation to the justice of the peace there, to me, and much more to the same effect. . . . I cannot but despise his reflections; but I could not but make this upon the matter, that the person who will endeavour so much to lessen me for my services to you will not fail to disserve you too when it lies in his way. . . . Honest Jeremy Pratt and I are just now drinking to your health and prosperity.

1702–3, March 13. Lichfield.—Lord Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P.

. . . I wish I had a capacity answerable to the inclinations I have of serving the present Government. But my ill state of health and the unfortunate deafness that attends it (which you are but too well acquainted with) must destroy all thoughts I can have of meddling with public business. However I do think myself much obliged to you and your friends, for taking notice, at this time, of your most insignificant as well as most affectionate brother.

1702–3, March 13.—John Harpur (M.P for Derby) to [Thomas Coke].

I am glad to hear that there's hopes of Halcyonian days; but when an opportunity of enjoyment is, and both parties have a liking, you would blame the conduct of those that did not improve that moment to their advantage: others have a prospect, if we neglect to make use of those blessings that are in our power. If we carelessly let slip those days that offer us happiness, and by an accident lose our moment, how will those, who are now as industriously as ever struggling for power and interest, despise our neglect and triumph over us. Nay, the very omissions that we have been guilty of will be a warning to them not to fall into the same errors. 'Tis insinuated by the Dissenting party that the Parliament will be dissolved. I hear Lord H[artington], Lord R[oos] and Sir Ch[arles Pye] are making interest: 'tis said their tools have been long at work privately. Being now discovered, I presume they gloss over the matter with the report of a dissolution, and though

they believe nothing of it themselves, yet they support their followers with that opinion. I have lost the favour of Mr. Alleyne, Mr. Thomas Brookhouse, and several others in St. Whalburg's parish by delaying the removal of Hatton, the exciseman: but most people say my interest is better than ever, though I cannot be of that opinion unless I can regain those gentlemen that seem disgusted. If that can be done, then I am sure that my interest must be good. Many are out of humour with Mr. Stanhope: how his presence may influence them I cannot tell; but I think he ought to make a trial how they will relish his company.

1702-3, March 17. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at the Office for Public Accounts in Spring Garden, London.

We were to the number of 20 of your friends to wait on the Chief Justice, and the next day Sir Nathaniel [Curzon] and about ten of them dined with him, of which number was Mr. Curzon. John Harpur sets out hence with Robert Wilmot on Easter Monday. I shall be glad to hear Lady Mary to be well. Mr. Pole lost his cause yesterday with Mr. Meynell of Langley to his great grief; and I suppose does not like Trevor. Mr. Meynell told me he was pallidus ira, when the judge summed up the evidence. My Lord of Rutland has given Thomas Eyre of Kouter such an affront, as he did Sir Phillip Gell, and Thomas says he only wants youth to fight him. Mr. Chaworth is extremely obliged to you. Dr. Coke told me he saw your cousin Kate Stanhope in Yorkshire, who says the quakers are all either fools, or knaves, or mad. I shall not send to Northampton fair, being advised to depend rather on Derby and Ashborne.

1702-3, March 17.—P. Chaworth to Mr. Caldecott, Woollen Draper at the Corner Shop, Salisbury Court in Fleet Street, London.

Pray tomorrow let me have a letter and the Postman, directed to me as your letters are, by Dyer, or any body you think as good. Let the Postboy too be sent at the same time, and so continued, both within the letter. Pray do you go along with the man that sends me the news to one Mr. Coke, Parliament man for Derbyshire, and he'll direct you the surest way for my letters coming safe—that is, he'll direct them. You must know he is one of the Commissioners for taxing the Public Accounts, which if they at the Post Office presume to strike out his frank, he'll know the reason with a witness to 'em. He lives at a House in St. James's Place. I writ him word this post that I would send you and my newswriter to wait of him tomorrow with a letter to frank; and pray don't fail, for he expects you. And I leave it altogether to you to please me in an Intelligencer, for I know their terms without any more ado. Whatever prints he and you think best, pray send, and begin on Saturday next. In the interim I am yours.

1703, April 5. Lichfield.—Lord Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I wish you much joy of your daughter, and take it very kindly that you and my sister are pleased to think of me for a godfather to my little niece. Since I am not in town I desire you would make choice of whom you please to represent me. . . . Tomorrow morning I begin my journey to Wing, where I hope to be upon Thursday. Pray distribute five guineas for me among the caudle makers.

(1703, April.) Lichfield.—Lord Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P., at St. James's Place, London.

This is to wish you much joy of your daughter. . . . I believe I might have had a nephew, had it not been prevented by the pernicious

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influence of too many cucumbers. Walmisley is the same man you left him: and has got such witnesses as came against Baker, to swear several misdemeanors as riots and those things against the gentlemen that came to the election. He goes to London tomorrow, and how he will proceed against me is left to his own discretion. However since he will not learn better manners, if you can get him flung out of the House, it will be no small satisfaction to your most affectionate brother and humble servant.

1703, May 18. Willow Walk, near Chelsey.—Francis Burdett to Thomas Coke.

. . . My occasions are so very urgent that I expect every day to be utterly ruined if I have not some very speedy relief from you. Our cause is a family cause, and though Sir Robert hath got both the honour and the estate, yet I hope I inherit the justice and honesty of my father, whose name I bear. I earnestly entreat you to consider that if Sir Robert ever intends to be just to me, these delays will all return upon him to make good the damages I sustain and the suffering I undergo. My case is very sad in all particulars. I am not capable of stirring abroad to wait on you, or attend to my other affairs which now entirely run to ruin, but upon Sunday which I ought to employ for the benefit of my soul. Be pleased to expedite this affair, which you have so generously espoused, and appoint me some time tomorrow, where I may wait upon you in a place of security.

1703, June 5. Camp of Handow (?).—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke.

I am now in low station from fitting myself out for the campaign and depending on the money which you sent me word my brother would pay you for to send me by our officers when they came over: but they have none for me. I suppose he thinks I am here to be killed, so will let me have nothing. But, Sir, for the care and love I have for you, whilst I can bear a sword in my hand I will venture for you. If it was not for the encouragement you give me I should have been in a very low condition. If they will but let me have what my father left me, and lend me some small matter: for 350*l.* I can buy a company, I would pay it in two years time. We have hard duty—two nights in bed in the week. We have no news here in the Camp, but lie the two armies in two leagues of one another. Now and then small parties meet; it is discoursed for to take Huy and Namur.

1703, June 13. Bath.—Lady Mary Coke to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I just now received my dear's kind letter, and the assurance of your being safely arrived at your journey's end was a great pleasure to me for I was in great concern for fear of the waters. . . . . These two days past I have had two violent fits of the cholic, indeed as severe as any at London. In the last I took laudanum, which shortened it very much. . . . I own a fit casts me down very much, for fear of a continuance, which besides an uneasy life to myself, must make me troublesome to every body else. I was so well when I writ to you last, that I went to a play with Lady Bellamont, which was very dull: but in a day after I kept house, and have not been out since. Though we do not want for invitations to balls. My Lord and Lady Dalkeith made the last: my sisters went to it. On Monday Lord Chomley makes one, and after that Lord Manchester one. Doctor Ratcliffe is so well to go to the pump every day. I think to beg his advice privately; for they say he gives out he will not advise anybody, being he comes for his own health. . . .

1703, June 23. Bath.—Lady Mary Coke to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

. . . Having missed the cholic since Friday I do not think of troubling Dr. Ratcliff, for I am afraid for such desperate pain there is no remedy but laudanum and the waters, which agree extremely with me in other respects. Lady Athelstone came here on Saturday . . . she is in my eye much the handsomest face I have seen here. I have raffled once with my Lady Hare, but won nothing. Mr. Fisher says he will take care to furnish Ellen with money for the house; and I hope my dear will not be wanting in ordering the months bills may be paid constantly. My father gave me an account of Sir William's death; and that he left him Shelford, which was his own. For sister Katherine, I believe if she lives she will have her thousand pounds, but three hundred now would have been more acceptable. This morning as I was dressing I began to have the cholic: and though I had taken a quart of waters at 7 in the morning, and this began at 11, I sent for two quarts more, and drank them off as fast as I could, and I thank God it put off the fit. I hope it will do me no hurt.

(1703), June 26. Bath.—Lady Mary Coke to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I can assure you my dear that I have not any one post since I saw you refused myself the pleasure of writing to you, and therefore I am surprised you do not receive them. I have constantly received yours, only sometimes later than the other letters in the town. As for my health, thank God, I think it better than it was. I writ you word how I had tried last Wednesday, in a fit, two quarts of these waters besides the first I had taken in the morning. It put off the fit, but at night it began to return, though very gently: though for fear of the worst I took ten drops of my laudanum, and I thank God since I have continued pretty well. . . . Since this was begun a fit of the cholic has taken me, at first pretty severely, but taking one quart of the water, thank God, it went off in an hour and a half. Doctor Ratcliff is just gone from me, and says I have a distemper that is the hardest to cure, but that here is my only remedy, and he believes them admirable: to-night he will have me take laudanum pills, and soon other prescriptions. I dread my stay here if I follow his order.

1703, June 30. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

. . . I have found great benefit by Dr. Coke's assistance, and by entering into a course of steel, for it has almost taken away all my yellowness. As to your news I could not read it without smiling, for it seems almost incredible that a General should run away at the same time that his army was victorious. But I will not detain you with my commenting on so extraordinary a text.

1703, August 9. O. S. The Camp before Huy.—Hans Hamilton to Thomas Coke, in St. James's Place.

I had the honour of a letter from you by your two Northern friends (who may depend on all the service I am capable of showing them) . . . . the hopes of finding news worth the knowing, as the taking of Antwerp or Ostend (which must have been welcome to St. Stephen's Chapel) was the real cause of my silence. And now failing on that side by reason of the impossibility of attacking the lines drawn before them, backed with an army equal in numbers, we are forced to turn our designs on this place. 'Twill keep us about ten days after our batteries begin to play, which will be on Tuesday morning next. From hence

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we intend for Limbourg, like Chymists that miss of the Philosopher's Stone, but make discoveries equivalent to the great arcanum they aimed at. Though we did not succeed in our first attempts and designs, yet these petty towns are not of less advantage, for the security of Liege, shortening our communications with the Rhine, and facilitating the siege of Namur, whenever we shall think fit to undertake it. Your two friends, if I mistake not, have had a surfeit of our trade already: and I believe, as soon as we are masters of this place, resolve to make the best of their way to Derbyshire, where I begin to wish myself too: for I never saw so fatiguing a campaign. And therefore I hope 'twill the sooner end, and then I shall the sooner be able to tell you myself that nobody is more, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

1703, August 27. N. S. Camp before Huy.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I have not before this given you the trouble of a letter, we having done nothing this campaign but march and countermarch, to very little purpose as I conceive; it ending in the siege of this place, which we have been nine days before, trenches opened, but the batteries were not ready till Wednesday last. It was surrendered yesterday morning, the garrison to remain prisoners of war. We have had yesterday and to-day great councils of war, in which I am told there is nothing yet determined. Some are for Limburg, others for attacking the lines near Bonef, and some for going to Namur: but I fear the last is too great an undertaking for the remaining part of the summer. We expect to go for Portugal, the Duke of Schomburg as we hear having desired it of her Majesty: but I find my Lord Duke of Marlborough is not willing to part with an English horse out of this country. If the regiment stays here I propose to myself the happiness this winter of kissing your hands in England, and assuring you how much I am your most obedient humble servant.

1703, September 24. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P., at his house in Park Place nigh St. James's.

I am to ask your pardon for being so long indebted to you for your last favour, with the inclosed reasons for attacking the French lines. I am inclined to think that the Duke of Marlborough procured the signing and the publishing of those reasons, not only to justify himself to the world for not fighting, but also by laying the blame upon the States to make a querelle d'Allemand with them, which will be an honourable excuse for his Lordship's quitting of the service the next year. . . .

1703, October 4. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Your last favour brought me the reasons of the Dutch Generals against fighting, but, as you say, the best reason is not mentioned by them, which was the private commands of the States for the contrary. And it has a long time been a maxim amongst them not to exasperate their enemies by bloody battles in hopes of conquest, but rather to secure what they have, and expect an advantageous peace.

1703, October 19. Ilam.—J. Port to the Hble. Thomas Cooke, Esq.

Having formerly given you some trouble in the affair betwixt the Vicar of Ilam and myself, I hope you will not refuse me your assistance in it, now there is some prospect of bringing it to an issue this term, he having preferred a bill against me before the Lord Keeper. The question is whether a clergyman is in equity obliged to keep a

solemn promise or no, for I look upon a bond of resignation to be such. Indeed some of our Bishops think their brethren the clergy lie under no obligations of promises or gratitude, as may be seen in Sir John Packington's case, as well as mine: for our Bishop (as Mr. Sterndale sets forth in his bill) refuses to receive his resignation, and so invalidates the judgment I have obtained against him at common law; which in my opinion looks so much like knavery and combination, that I cannot but hope a Court of Equity will relieve me. However as I am informed, it will appear simony in him, and so the presentation go to my Lord Keeper, which makes me desire you will use your interest with the Lord Keeper to gain the presentation for a son of Mr. Ensor's, in case it lapses to him, and to determine the affair this term. They have already put me to a great deal of charge in the Exchequer, where they have had me three or four years, and when it was come to an issue there, they removed it into the Chancery, as a more dilatory Court. For his attorney declares, if he will but furnish him with money, he will make me weary of the suit: and the parson brags that his brethren will not let him want that, in order to carry on the common cause, as they call it. I know not what they mean by it, but I think it very plain by their proceedings that they are more inclined to betray the religion and interest of their country than the nobility and gentry ever were.

[Indorsed by Mr. Coke "to speak to the Lord Keeper."]

1703, November 13. Leicester. At the One Crane Inn.—Francis Petty to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at the Commission of Accounts Office, Spring Garden, London.

I am still at Leicester and am obliged to stay till the 25th because there is no place to be had in the London coach before. Lord Scarsdale supped and lay at the Crane one night. I owned I had the honour to know you a little. I think I shall effectually perform my commission with Mr. Willson, whom I find a gentleman of nice honour, yet is pleased to hear reason from me, the only messenger he liked. I have not found one fool in this country. They answer all concisely—Yes—No—Can't tell—Indifferent—: sharp witted, very gallant—sell their wives for what one that likes her will give. Their whole endeavour is outwitting each other in bargaining: diffident of themselves, they mistrust strangers extremely. I am forced to tell my business in the market, at least enough to let them know I do not come to steal their hearts or effects. I have diverted myself as I could hitherto, but want a bill of 5*l.* more, to be returned by Mr. John Campbell at the Three Crowns in the Strand. If you, Sir, would give a note to your tenant John Higgon who is well known to Mr. Robert Bass, Innkeeper, at the One Crane at Leicester to pay him 5*l.*, I would return it to you, as soon as in London; that I might make the best of my way home before the rains fall to raise the waters. For God's sake, one word of news: say something to make me endure this place a week or ten days more, for Mr. Willson has appointed me another meeting here. Lord Scarsdale's nephew said the Marquis of Hartington is drowning Derbyshire with usquebaugh. You will smile to hear the many perils I had courage to go through.

1703, November 22.—Francis Petty to Thomas Cooke, in St. James's Place.

You desired of me the journal of my Leicestershire journey. The most remarkable thing I have met with was in the chimney nook at the One Crane, wherein I chanced to meet with honest John Edwin, a sufficient tenant of yours at Baggrave Hall, who tells me you are an

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excellent landlord, and do him the honour in passing to stop at his house: and that you shot a hare once an hour before dinner, which being on the spit was restored new on Lady Mary's coming in. The men of this country are very concise in all they say—yes—no—and indifferent &c. I have done all that can be done in my business. Mr. Willson and I are agreed I stand by an English gentleman that has honour. I want Scotch bills from Edinbrough, and am, I think, prisoner at large in Leicester: but wherever I am, I am always Sir your obliged and humble servant.

1703, November 29. Coten Hill, Salop.—Mrs. Alice Pope to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I suppose you have heard of my son being taken ill at the siege of Huy, and with the ill fortune he had in his return from the Bath in Germany, though he had a passport from the Marshal Villeroy. He seems doubtful of recovering his loss, and also of his coming into England this winter, which he designed and which would be a very great satisfaction to me to see him once more. And I do beg the favour of your assistance. He says all the Captains endeavour to come home, and there must but two.

(1704, the beginning of.) London.—John Coke to Thomas Coke.

I carried George along with me to see my Lord Nottingham's chaise, Lord Lovelace's and Colonel Grimes's. They are all hung on shafts. The first is the lightest, but I fear the carriage is too slight to travel in bad roads. The bodies of the two first are alike, after the Italian manner to fall back: they differ only in the curtains. My Lord Nottingham's is hung upon two very short iron standards, which play a little. My Lord Lovelace's is upon a piece of wood which plays a good deal, and must be easier; but then it must be more apt to break. Colonel Grimes's is much heavier than the other two, and stronger: it was designed for travelling, and has held very well, for it has been twice in Westmorland, once in Scotland; yet it is so light that a pair of horses in summer time drew in five days from London to Weemes. The body of this chaise is in the nature of a calesh: it is hung as my Lord Lovelace's. The crane-necked carriage at the coachmakers is as short as any of these. On it you must fix the portmanteau behind; on the others you may place it very conveniently before. If you think fit I will make the coachmaker view the two first chaises mentioned, and he may make you a new one with all the conveniences and none of the faults of both, if there be any. I desire you will send your directions by the coach tomorrow: if I hear nothing to the contrary from you, I will not put a stop to the fitting of the crane-necked carriage: I desire you would write whether you would have the chaise made so strong as to bear travelling at all times of the year, or only to take the air and travel short journeys in summer. My sisters and Misses give their duty and service to you.

1703–4, January 5. Amington.—Ed. Repington to Thomas Coke.

. . . On Friday last I came from my Lord Stanhope's, when your health was often drunk in wine that I am sure tasted as well upon it, as if the most celebrated toast had been mentioned. The players were there [Lichfield], I should have said strollers, to whom the C. of H. made a visit every night, and the rest of the Cathedral beauties of the place. Will. Inge is worse than married, for he comes near none of his friends, spends his whole time with his dulcinea, and can find nothing entertaining but her conversation. By then he has been coupled to her

a month, I don't doubt but the pretence of business will make him a better neighbour. Poetry and our pockets are at a low ebb in these parts. We have neither wine to raise our fancies, nor navigable rivers, nor passable roads to convey our commodities when they may take a price. And I'm afraid, unless some care be taken of the better disposition of them, that these midland counties will in a short time lie under greater hardships. Young Robert Burdet has been with me today, who says his father is perfectly recovered, and on Friday next goes ten miles before he throws off his hounds. The young gentleman is coming to town, for I do suppose he can find no occasional mistress for his purpose in the country.

1703–4, January 13.—For the use of two rooms and staircase in deep mourning and hall with a border for six months, 20*l.*

1703–4, January 17.—A paper headed "The following particulars were performed by James King, Herald Painter, for the funeral of the Lady Mary Coke."

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For two Pennons wrought on crimson silk -	5	0	0
For 12 Shields at 3*s.* per piece - -	1	16	0
For 12 Escotcheons in buckram at 2*s.* per piece	1	4	0
	£8	0	0

1703–4, January 22.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke.

Since I find that I have not strength enough of mind (on this occasion) to come to you as I ought, permit me to make use of this means to express the high sense I have of all the kindness that you showed to my poor daughter; and to assure you that though she is gone, I shall always embrace your interest as my own, and value the two poor infants that she has left as a tie of our inviolable friendship. I ought also to wait upon the ladies your sisters, and to say more to them than I am able to express for their transcendant favours to her who is gone during all her illness. But these thoughts do so tear my soul that I must crave some time to be allowed me before I can speak calmly after such a storm, that has disordered my remaining life, and made me lose all the comfort and joy that remained to an old man, who is your most affectionate father and very unfortunate servant.

1703–4, January 22. Mansfield.—C. Stanhope to Thomas Coke.

Were I as capable to express my real sorrow for your late misfortune as I am deeply sensible of it, I am sure I should stand in the first rank of the most sincere condolers. For which I could advance many reasons did not this mournful conjuncture forbid me to aggravate your grief by mentioning the merits of its subject. Be pleased Sir to accept my hearty wishes for your consolatory support under so weighty and exquisite a pressure, with which all your relations must needs be affected with a pungent share; and so in particular is, Sir, your affectionate kinsman and very humble servant.

(1703–4, January.) Holmesfield.—Michael Burton to Thomas Coke.

I must not be silent and not acquaint with some stories that have been industriously spread in this county relating to you. One is that you voted against the Bill to prevent Occasional Conformity. . . . Mr. Spateman in all companies boasted of the thing, and drunk your health, saying he would never vote against you for the future. This sort of discourse gave a mighty shock to your friends, who speak of it to me

with great concern. I think two words from yourself that I might show them would effectually justify you. The other matter is a contrived story to create a misunderstanding between Mr. Curzon and you, to break your interest if possible. 'Tis a report that Mr. Curzon will stand no longer for the county, and that you design to join my Lord Hartington's interest next election. This story came to me from my cousin Ellis Farnworth who told me he had it from Mr. Walker, Minister at St. Warburg's in Derby, who said it had been told at Kedleston and had caused some uneasiness there. I suppose this a shaft out of your friend Gisbourne's quiver. 'Twould be presumption in me to prescribe anything to you for clearing this point. What Sir Philip Gell has said and done in this matter you'll receive an account of from my dear friend Capt. Beresford. My brother is with me. He goes on pretty successfully with his levies. He believes his Captain, Trevanion, will part with his commission, and that he could have it for 300 guineas. Now if his Colonel, my Lord North, could be prevailed with to give my brother leave to sell his Ensign's commission, I believe, it being a standing regiment, I can help him to 100*l.* for it; and then I have about 70*l.* of his in my hands, and will make it up 100*l.*: and will give security with him for the remaining 100*l.* I am very sensible your friendship will be of the greatest importance to him in this affair. Dear Jemmy Trott is now with me drinking your health. I have by the Chesterfield carrier sent you a small present of two brace of Holmesfield fowl, and I hope they will come safe to you. 'Twas but late last night I heard of your great loss of my Lady Mary, which I am extremely concerned at. Sir, I heartily wish you health and happiness. Pray direct for me by Chesterfield bagg; for the last letter I had from you coming by Sheffield bagg was almost two months before I received it.

1703–4, February 2. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke.

I have got your dog from Mr. Cocks. He tells Mr. Rolleston that he sets partridge well, and lies for the net; and if you shoot before him, he will lie. If he spring, you must beat him, and keep him humble and tied up. I found him in several stories about him last year, which made me send to you that Mr. Rolleston might try him: however he being very poor I would not give him occasion to clamour for want of the two guineas. I have no judgment in decoys; but if any that had saw your pool in Gorsty Leys, I fancy it would make a very good one, being ready planted, rightly situated for privacy, and very convenient for Sinfin Moor, and has been full of fowl all winter, and is a noble length of water. The messenger that went for him (the dog) tells me he saw Mr. Cocks take nine partridge with him this 1st of February. The dog sprung others, and is too eager: so that if he points, you must check him a little at first, to take heed. Mr. Cocks told him, it was only that he had not been abroad of a fortnight.

1703–4, February 16. London.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

. . . The Bill for disposing of the First Fruits is brought in. It will answer all your friend can desire. There is a clause in it to enable the Corporation to receive any charities, impropriations or others, and to settle and dispose them according to the directions of the donor. . . . . Colonel Cadogan was left by my Lord Marlborough to finish some business, but he is expected here within a week and the wine will come with him. I expect too by every post the bill of lading of the other wine, which Mr. Fern promised to take care of. I desire you would be pleased to send me a letter to Mr. Fern, open and without date, that

I may put the bill of lading into it . . . lest the wine should be seized before he is instructed how to take care of it. I have ordered the hampers to be directed to John Thompson. Would you please to have any champagne wine? I can help you to some of the last vintage but one, which I am assured is very good, at a very low rate. I am very sorry for your letter to the Speaker. But if you resolve to give over business, I am sure company is more necessary for you. And I hope you will be pleased to grant that to your friends' importunity which you deny to your own health, to visit them at the least sometimes here. As soon as ever my attendance on the House will give me leave, I will take the first opportunity of paying to you that respect and duty which is on many accounts due to you from your most obliged obedient servant. The champagne was designed for my Lord Marlborough: when I see you, you shall know the history of it.

(1703–4.) March 6. Chelmsford.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I am infinitely obliged to you for the favour you did me in speaking to my Lord Duke, and beg you will remember to give it in writing, as you mention his Grace desires. I shall go tomorrow to Colchester, and stay there with the recruits of our regiment, till our embarkation, which I hear is put off for some time, till more men of war can be got ready, the Dunkirk squadron being at sea: but I suppose you know more of this than I do.

1703–4, March 23. London.—Robert Jennens to Thomas Coke at Melbourne.

I hope you'll excuse my not waiting on you at Hampton Court. Your wine is come safe and sent home. I would not get a bill of store for it, but had it entered at as moderate a rate as possible: the whole charge freight included comes to 3*l.* 8*s.* I should be glad to hear of your being got home safe: I fear the rains may stop you on your way. Harry St. Johns tells me he has wrote you this post; I suppose he has sent you the Lords' opinions of the Scotch Plot. Other news we have none.

1703, April 1. Gertrudenborg. — Thomas Burton to [Michael Burton].

I have heard that my father is dead. I sent several letters which I hope that you gave him. I am very much concerned that I did not see him, but I may thank my mother for it. God forgive her. I hope you will let me hear how things are settled, and the will. I hope my father has been kind to me. If he had lived to have seen me in England, he had been vindicated of me by my behaviour, and the officers of the army, that know my character. She will be a little humble: she will not give herself the airs she has done: but God preserve her. I hope you will not forget your promise, when I gave you a note for 40*l.*, you said that if you heard well of me, you would forgive me. . . . I think I shall have occasion to buy a Captain's commission for little, in this regiment. . . We are very busy exercising, and expect to march. Love to your wife, sister Prew, and sister Betty.

1703, April 1. Gertrudenborg.—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke.

I send this to acquaint you I received yours of the 20th. I desire the favour to pay Capt. Dawes the 30*l.*: I consulted with him what I must have, and after this my pay will serve. Sir, I desire to know if I can buy a Captain's commission in this regiment, which I think I can for 300*l.*, if it falls out. I am sure your interest will do in it. I know not what my fortune is, so pray write to my brother. We have had a great

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vacancies in the regiment of Lieutenant. The eldest was to get first, but my Lord North says the best interest and you are made. I am eldest ensign but three. I hope when I have occasion you will be my friend. As for bearing a Captain's commission I am capable, for I have commanded a company this five months.

(1703–4). London.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke, at Mr. Snape's house at Hampton Court.

Yesterday Monsieur de Prepetit's wife brought hither two manuscripts: she left word that if you would employ him further, he had copies that he could go on. I can't forbear telling you of a disaster that happened yesterday in the House of Lords to my Lord Ferrers, which my Lady Carnarvon sent us word of, though my Lady said my Lord Carnarvon was not by, himself, but she had it from good hands. There was a Committee of Lords upon the examining into the Scotch Plot, and there was a letter brought into the House directed to my Lord Ferrers, which my Lord told the House might be something relating to the Plot, and asked whether it should be read by the House, which after a debate upon it was ordered to be done. It proved a very scurrilous lampoon upon the A. and several Lords by name: his own name was not one, but my Lord in a great passion flung it immediately into the fire. My Lady Catherine Stanhope was with us yesterday: she is now pretty well. She said a great deal to us upon a present you had sent her. She sent me two diamond crosses for earrings. I believe you remember there was some little agreement once between the crosses and my Lord Ascote's picture: my Lady was very earnest about them, so they remain with me, till I see you, or have your orders about them.

1704, April 3.—The Duke of Marlborough to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Sir, I could not leave England with any ease to my own mind till I had turn'd my thoughts to every thing that is possible for placing you in the Queen's service to your satisfaction and though I have noe immediate prospect of the vacancy of soe good an employment as you may reasonable expect, I have mentioned three to her Majesty for her favour to you, if any one of them should drop. My Lord Treasurer will give you a more particular account of this matter, and serve you with the same zeal and readiness which you shall always find from, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

1704, April 6. London.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

Just as I received your letter I was sitting down to write to you how gracious the Lords had been at last in giving the Queen leave to prorogue us. I won't trouble you with an account of their addresses and the Queen's answers, because they appear in print: but that which doth not is that she received them with a great deal of coldness and scorn. My cousin St. John kissed the Queen's hand for Secretary of War two days ago: but though 'tis denied and kept secret from me, yet I question not but 'tis no news to you. I hope the business that brings you up to town again is something of the same nature. . . . Mr. Gilbert is provided for with the Queen's letter in the "Tilbury."

1704, April 7. Harwich.—A. Cardonnel to Thomas Coke, at Melbourne in Derbyshire, by Loughborough bag.

I believe I need not acquaint you that Mr. Trot is to have a company in the Earl of Orrory, or the Lord Henry Scot's regiment. He will do well to attend the Duke of Ormond for his commission. I have already told Mr. Baresford that he will have a lieutenancy in an old corps abroad, where I should be heartily glad to receive your commands. His Grace designs to embark this morning for Holland.

1704, April 8. London.—William Stratford to Thomas Coke, at Mr. Burdetts, at Knowle Hills in Darbyshire.

The Calcavella was mingled according to your order with the Champagne. I received all the other wine and have in my cellar for you about 15 dozen of that which I believe will please you. Your orders with relation to Portugal are obeyed: and I have now received the Aldus Tully and Vasari. At last we are up, and we have a little time to breathe in. The Lords Papers swarm very thick. You in the country can judge best what effect they have. Resentments were pretty warm at parting, but I hope they may cool a little upon fresh country air. My Lord Romney died this morning of the small pox. My Lord Stawel is to succeed my Lord Longvile in the Bed Chamber to the Prince. Mr. Blaithwait is out of the Office of War, and is to be succeeded by Mr. St. John. That is not yet owned, but will be, I suppose, when my Lord Treasurer returns from Newmarket. No mail yet from Lisbon: all conclude the packet boat is taken. Four mails came in today from Holland. Nothing material, but that the Emperor's forces have obtained a considerable victory over the Hungarians. In Holland, as well as here, this is looked upon as ill news; and they are afraid this success may dispose the Emperor to refuse what is demanded.

1704, April 8. Comptroll Office.—Henry Cartwright to [Thomas Coke].

Last post I inclosed a letter to you from his Grace the Duke of Marlborough. I directed to Derby, to be sent to you by the postmaster. I hope you have got it, for I believe it to be a letter of consequence. His Grace gave such a particular charge of it, and desired to have an account by the first opportunity of your receipt of it. I hope that letter will give me the happiness of seeing you soon in town. I beg your commands, and nobody shall obey with more pleasure and fidelity than your most humble and most obedient servant.

(1704), April 9. Bois le Duc.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

After having met with a violent storm (for of late years I can never go to sea with horses, without finding some such thing) in which we had our sails blown away, and sprung a leak, which kept us to the exercise of continual pumping, and one of our guns broke loose, and had like to have overset the ship, for they were in a condition to do nobody any harm but ourselves, and with the loss of eighteen horses of the regiment, we arrived the 22nd O. S. at Williamstat, having run more dangers than a man need do in the horse service in several campaigns, if we are not more bloody-minded than we have been. I got here last night when I met your letter, which was the greatest satisfaction I found since I left London. I hear Mr. St. Johns is to succeed W. B. . . . t, which I am doubly rejoiced at—that we shall have a man of so good sense and manners to apply ourselves to, when affairs require it, and, secondly, that we shall get rid of a drag that always did us harm whenever it was in his power.

1704, April 10. Knowlhills.—Thomas Coke, M.P., to the Duke of Marlborough. [Draft.]

My Lord, I received your Grace's of the 3rd instant and with it new instances of your favour to mee in continuing me in your thoughts with many obligations I shall never forgett, and whenever her Majesty pleases to think me worthy of the honour of serving her, I shall allways acknowledge how much I ow that favour to your Grace's recommen-

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dation of me to her. I did not hear the time your Grace intended to goe for Holland, till I heard you were embarqued, and therefore I hope a prosperous voyage has prevented my wishes and landed you safe in Holland, and be the good omen of that happy success that every well wisher hopes will attend you this campaigne and att all times in everything you undertake, and which is wished by no one more sincerely than by your Grace's most oblidged and obedient humble servant to command.

1704, April 13. Comptroll Office, Whitehall.—Henry Cartwright to [Thomas Coke].

I am to acquaint you that a gentleman you recommended to the Duke of Marlborough has had the misfortune to be very ill represented to his Grace, who told Mr. Whitfield that he depended upon your recommendation, and nothing should balance it, for he would provide for the gentleman as you desired. . . . Rather than be the occasion of any debate amongst friends, I would relinquish all pretentions, and shall be satisfied until I have the honour of seeing you. Last night Mr. Duncombe the Comptroller died of the small pox. I heartily lament the loss. As soon as I heard it, I waited upon Mr. St. John, who told me as a friend he hoped your affair was concluded. . . . I may presume to say it would be to the satisfaction of the Duke and Lord Treasurer, and I don't doubt but you may have it upon your own terms as to salary and powers.

1704, April 15. London.—Robert Jennens to Thomas Coke, at Melbourne.

I am just returned from Newmarket, where I was sorry I could not have your company, as you once designed. We had a great many matches, but few good ones. My Lord Lindsey won the plate, and my Lord Kingston most of the money. Your antagonist, my Lord Granby, a great sufferer, and I believe a greater will be, for he obstinately persists in his measures there, which are as wrong as those in some other of his affairs. We have had a great deal of fine weather which makes that place exceed all others. There's another meeting begins the 2nd May. Our old Groom of the Stole, Lord Romney's dead. He has left almost all his estate which is computed at about 40,000*l.* to Jack Sydney, a pretty competency to support the rake. I was glad to find from yours that no ill accident happened to you on your journey: the badness of the weather gave me apprehensions. I hope by this you think of a return, for good company begins to grow scarce.

1704, April 18. London.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I hope that this fine weather has diverted you in the country: and if solitude has any charms you cannot want them at Knowll Hills. This night my old acquaintance the Lord Rumny is to be buried, in whom I do think that I have lost a true friend, which is a thing seldom recovered at my age. The town is extremely hot and dusty, and many persons are sick of the small pox, and therefore except you have great business in town, I could wish you would defer your coming to it. The Lord Weymouth was with me yesterday, and told me you were made one of the Commissioners for the Plantations, which his lordship says that he is very glad of, because he shall have your company and assistance in these affairs. I told him that I had not heard you mention it, and knew nothing of it.

1704, April 18. Comptroll Office, Whitehall.—Henry Cartwright to Thomas Coke.

I have writ to Mr. Whitfield for the name of the gentleman you recommended, and will send it by next. I may presume to say his Grace believed what was said to the prejudice of the gentleman to be the effect of malice or ignorance. I am extremely concerned that you decline the Comptroll: but if the being easy with the Surveyor bears any weight in the objection, you may depend upon it that your pleasure will always be a law with Sir Jos—h, I assure you nobody desires this more than Sir Jos—h. My Lord Treasurer will do nothing in this till he hears from the Duke.

1704, April 20. London.—James Craggs to Thomas Coke.

. . . I waited upon my Lord Duke to Harwich, when he commanded me to assure you of his hearty service. . . . And now give me leave to tell you I write this by the command of my Lord Treasurer, of which I must beg you to please to take no other notice than by letting me know your sentiments and commands upon the ensuing matter, if you shall so think fit. His Lordship says that both himself and Duke Marlborough have for a great while thought themselves obliged to omit no occasion of distinguishing the regard they have for you: and though they have had several views to that purpose, yet no opportunity has hitherto happened to express it so effectually as they could wish; and therefore would let no occasion happen that might not at least express their desires to serve you. And though what has now happened may not be worthy your consideration, yet my Lord Treasurer does not think fit to propose any person to her Majesty, till you were first acquainted with it. You must have heard that Mr. Duncombe of Battlesdown, who was one of the Controllers of the Army, is dead: and indeed I think Sir Joseph Tredenham cannot be many weeks after him, . . . whose death would make it very worthy any one man's acceptance. And therefore my Lord Treasurer proposes that if you can think of accepting Mr. Duncombe's vacancy, the whole will devolve upon you, when it falls; which will otherways be kept in commission, as it is now. I believe it does not require much trouble, and I believe may be made both useful and easy with the army; and being established must continue in peace as well as war, as well as the Paymaster and Secretary of War does. All your friends are well, and drank your health the other day.

(1704, April 20), Thursday night. London.—James Craggs to the Honble. Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place.

This only comes to desire you will be pleased to take no notice to anybody of what happened about the Controllership of the Army: and I will give you good reasons for my request when I see you.

1704, April 22. London.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

. . . On Thursday night my Lord Nottingham brought the seals to the Queen, but she would not accept them: he pressed her Majesty thrice to receive them, and at last said (as I am told) he would not surprise her Majesty, but would keep them a day or two longer, till she had had time to think of some other to bestow them on, but in the meantime would make no use of them. 'Tis generally said Sir W. Trumball will succeed him. My Lord Kingston to be Lord Chamberlain, and Tom Mansell to succeed Sir Edward Seymour. My cousin St. John hath begun to execute his office.

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1704, April 23. Knowlhills. — Thomas Coke, M.P., to [James Craggs?]

With the first opportunity I return you my thanks for yours of the 20th instant, for which I am very much oblidged to you, for it brought me fresh instances of my Lord Duke's kindness, of which I have received so many allready that I should be very ungratefull to doubt of it, and begg the favour of you the first opportunity you have to present my most humble service to his Grace and to lett him know how extreamly I am indebted to him for his many favours. And the same service I desire you will do me to my Lord Treasurer, with my particular thanks for the favour therein mentioned: in relation to which I can onely say I should be proud of any employment in which my Lord Treasurer shall think me fitt to serve the Queen, but I am sensible I can be of no service to her Majesty by acting in conjunction with anybody in the commission you mention. But if Sir Joseph Tredenham's condition should take him from that employment, and my Lord Treasurer think it for the Queen's service it should be executed by a single person, I should think myself very happy that my Lord Treasurer should recomend me to the Queen, and be very much oblidged, if accepted. In the meantime I hope my Lord Treasurer will not take ill my declining to be joined with anybody in the commission mentioned in yours . . . . .

1704, April 25.—Thomas Burton to Thomas Coke at Melbourn.

Since I saw you I have bought me a captain's commission of the Lieut.-Coronall in our regiment, and made it my interest to have mine Ensign commission for my cousin Burton. I hope to be in Holland, if the wind serves, on Friday come seven nights, to present my cousin to the regiment. My Lord is very kind to me on your account. I have received the 25*l*., but not that of Captain Mounger. I have discharged all your and mine remainder of my fortune to my brother.

1704, April 27. London.—James Craggs to Thomas Coke.

I had the honour of yours last night of the 23rd, which I communicated to my Lord Treasurer, who will leave it to you to do as you shall think fit. The changes that has lately been made makes strange rumbling in the minds of some of our friends. . . . We dine with Mr. Brydges tomorrow, when we shall drink your health. If I knew when I would meet you in your last day's journey.

1704, May 2. London.—James Craggs to the Honble. Thomas Coke at the Red Lyon at St. Alban's.

I had the honour of your letter without date, and had certainly met you tomorrow, but am prevented by an accident, which you will agree to be a good reason when I see you. As to a new Parliament I believe there's no sort of grounds. It's said Sir William Trumball has excused his accepting the seals upon the score of age and infirmities, but I can hardly believe it.

1704, June 4. N.S. Ladenburg on the Neckar.—R. Pope to Thomas Coke, M.P. [No address.]

We marched from Bois-le-duc here in twenty days, and halt yesterday and today for the foot and cannon to come up. The troops are in a very good condition, considering the length and expeditiousness of the march, we having been very well provided with forage. The Electors of Treves and Mayence have seen us on our march, and at least 200 ladies, some of them much handsomer than we expected to find in this country. My Lord Duke will have an army of near 40,000 under his command. We don't doubt of obliging the Elector of Bavaria to change

party, and hope to do something else considerable before the end of the campaign. We hear Prince Lewis has got some advantage over the French and Bavarians, but the Imperialists as well as the French magnify small matters to that degree that there is no depending on any account they give of these affairs. As to our own I hope they will always be in such a condition that they will need no gloss, but be related with as much sincerity as I am your most obliged humble servant.

1704, June 6. Knowlehills.—Walter Burdett to Thomas Coke.

I have the usual Sunday dinner here today, and if you please to come privately to your old quarters of retirement, you know that you and your company may be welcome. But if you have a mind to have the bells ring for you, and be public, wherever you please, I will be ready with my calash and retinue to attend your entrance.

1704, June 11. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

. . . We had an indifferent good journey down, as being free from dust and ill accidents, but as soon as we came to Bretby, we had reason to think that we left summer at London, and found winter in Derbyshire, for it has been so windy, rainy, and cold that we have been obliged to have constant fires in our chambers ever since we came to this place; and though we have now many ripe melons, I find (to my grief) that we shall have very little or no wall fruit this summer. I hope this account will not make you to defer your journey, for all your friends here do please themselves with the expectation of your company.

1704, June 13. Heppach.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

Since my last to you from Ladenburg, we marched to Effingham (Höffenheim) the next day to Mondelsheim, where Prince Eugene joined us. My Lord Duke was with him alone near three hours that day. The next we marched here, and yesterday he saw the horse and dragoons. Prince Lewis of Baden is expected here every moment, Colonel Cadogan being gone this morning to meet him. So the designs of this campaign will in all probability be settled this night or tomorrow. We shall march from hence in two days to Geislinen (Geislingen) where the general rendezvous of our army is to be. It is nine leagues from hence, and seven from Ulm. I hear Prince Eugene is unwilling to command in the Lines of Stolhoven. The French threaten Mayence. Colonel Sibourg desires to be your humble servant.

1704, June 20. St. James's Place, London.—Thomas Coke, M.P., to the Duke of Marlborough. [Draft.]

My Lord, I am honoured with your Grace's letter from Gardach [Gartach near Heilbroun] of the 28th of the last month, and I believe before this comes to your hands there will be an occasion for it to have congratulated with you upon some good success, as well as to return you my humble thanks for the many obligations I stand indebted to your kindness to mee upon so many occasions. Wee have great reason to hope her Majesty's arms under your Grace will this summer have all the good success that every wellwisher to England desires: and as the Germans must own their safety to her Majesty's goodness in asisting them with her armyes and mony, by which they have escaped the ruinous blow that seemed so imediately to threaten them, whenever the French should be able to pass the Black Forest, so they can't but be

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sensible how much they must owe the good advice of this glorious undertaking to your Grace, as well at the executing of it such expedition and secrecy, which could have been done by nobody else. And the country gentlemen, who have so long groaned under the weight of four shillings in the pound, without hearing of a town taken, or any enterprise endeavoured, seem every day more chearfull in this warr, when no summer has passed, but some towns have submitted to the English arms, and expeditions carried on so secretly that they are in a manner successfully over before the French, so famous formerly for good intelligence, can give a guess where the stroke is likely to fall . . . .

1704, June 25. (Derby.) — Dr. John Coke to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, in London.

I hear from London that the Prince is very ill, and that here is an extraordinary consultation of physicians about him; and that it is in your power to do me a kindness in naming me, if any country physician should be called in, as hath sometimes been done—I having been regularly bred in our own University. . . . If there be nothing of this (because I am not assured of it) I desire you will say nothing of it, but burn mine as soon as you have read it.

1704, July 6. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Your favour of the 1st instant brought me the good news of our success in Portugal, and we have an account since of the great victory that we have had against the Elector of Bavaria, which gives us reason to hope that the fortune of France is changed, and must at last submit to the good of Christendom. I am concerned that we shall not have your company so soon as we expected.

1704, July 8. Hereford.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

You asked me whether I would come in for a share in some Burgundy, which I thought I would have no occasion of, but if it is not too late and your number is not full, I will be very willing to make one. [Observations respecting a victory over the French.] By a letter from Mr. Clark I hear that the *Revenge* is stopped to carry my Lord Galloway to Portugal, where that he may be the better enabled to change the face of affairs the Queen hath given orders for the regiments of Donegal and Cawfield to be sent. I am sorry Sir G. Rook could not come up with the C. de Tholone, which, if he had, would have made one of the most glorious campaigns that England ever saw: but it is not the first time that the English canvas hath given just cause of complaint. I should be glad to know how the General Mortgage stood last midsummer, and what part of it hath been paid off this last year.

1704, July 27.—Richard Husband to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, at Mr. St. John's house at Buckleberry, Berkshire.

I went with the deeds on Saturday to Sir Richard Hoares'; he sent his man with me to Mr. Webb's chamber. . . . Christopher Musgrave is dead.

1704, August 9. Derby.—Draft by Thomas Coke of his "Letter to Keightly."

At my coming into Darbyshire I was surprised with an account of some things you said here in town to a sempstress whose sister lives at Kedlaston, which is so silly a lie that till I hear how you can clear yourself, I have too good an opinion of you to believe. What I am told you said was that Sir Nathaniel Curzon's daughters were gone to the Bath to try to get them husbands, but you believed to no purpose;

and that Sir Nathaniel Curzon had offered either of them to me with 20,000*l.*, and that I had refused them. This last it lies more immediately upon me to expect you to clear yourself [from]: and the rest I hope you can for your own sake; for I have that kindness for you that I should be sorry to have any occasion to write myself other than your affectionate friend.

1704, August 10.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke, M.P., at Melbourne.

The book you write for is a good argument that you are not much harrassed in your journey. I hope I am so well acquainted with good Mr. Coke that I should not have bought the other book, though he had forgot to give me a caution against it; and I hope Mr. Coke knows me so well that he will not expect that I lose this opportunity of letting the ladies at Bucklebury know what books he choses for his meditations in his solitude. The books I believe are not to be met with here, nor, if they were, could I well without a blue coat and long wig, enquire for them. But I shall venture to write to Holland for them, and to desire, if they are there, to have them by the first opportunity. Four mails yesterday, but nothing in them of much moment. Tallard and Prince Eugene have joined their respective friends. The time of action before Tallard's junction has been lost, because the Germans had no heavy cannon. Prince Lewis says he is now ready for the siege of Ingoldstadt. It is thought he will sit down before it, whilst my Lord M. and Prince Eugene observe Tallard and Bavaria. . . .

As we were sitting down to dinner at my masters came a copy of my Lord Marlborough's letter to the Dutchesse, sent by his Ayd-de-camp Colonel Parker. He says only that he had entirely defeated French and Bavarians, and that Tallard and two other generals were then prisoners in his coach. He refers himself for particulars to Parker; but he cannot give many, as to place of action and number of those engaged. He came away just as the victory was declared, and my Lord M. was giving orders for the pursuit. The letter was writ on horseback with a black leaden pencil. The victory was gained on the 2nd of August, our style. Parker has rode it in eight days.

1704, August 10. London.—Robert Jennens to Thomas Coke at Melbourne.

For going out of town and not letting me know, I have a good mind not to let you know of the glorious victory of our friend, his Grace of Marlborough. Parker arrived this day from him. His letter dated yesterday was sennight from on horseback he writes with a lead pencil. Prince Lewis had besieged Ingoldstadt, and his Grace, being joined with Prince Eugene, was to cover the siege. That day they came to a general battle with the Elector and Marshal Tallard, and had gained an entire victory: the only body of the army remaining was twenty battalions, who were surrounded by General Churchill, and must be cut in pieces or surrender prisoners of war. That Tallard and two other general officers were then prisoners in his coach, and that the victory might justly be given to the bravery of his own troops. What other particulars could be given he leaves to Colonel Parker, who is gone on to Windsor. Pray remember a brace of greyhounds for Sir John.

1704, August 15. Melbourne.—Thomas Coke, M.P., to the Duke of Marlborough. [Draft.]

The same post by which I received the honour of your Grace's letter of the 3rd instant, N.S. from Fridberg [Friedberg near Augsburg]

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brought us the welcome news of your glorious victory near Hochsteten. 'Twere needless to say how much we partake in the joy of this news, so happy for England and all the allies: and I should injure the Publick should I detain your Grace longer than to wish you oportunities of meeting the enemy, which are so many certain victories, and that your safe return to England may crown the successes we are to hope from this campaign, when amongst the crowd of your well wishers I may have the honour to assure you there is no one more sincerely so than your Graces most humble and most obedient servant to command.

1704, August 16. Dillingen.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I did not give you an account of the affair of Schellenberg, because it appeared to me with a different face to what it did over all Europe, it being in my opinion a considerable advantage purchased at a dear rate, rather than a victory. But this last that my Lord Tunbridge brings you an account of is the greatest and most glorious action that has happened in several ages, to the immortal glory of the Queen's arms, to the perpetual fame of my Lord Duke, who exposed himself as much as any officer or soldier in the army, and much more than most of the generals. As to the number the enemy has lost, 'tis probable they will never be so ingenuous to publish —'tis so great, and they lie so dispersed that we cannot compute it. We have taken prisoners Marshal Tallard, the general of their horse, the general of the dragoons, 4 lieutenant-generals, 3 major-generals, 7 brigadiers, 27 battalions of foot, 12 squadrons of dragoons with all their horses, 34 pieces of cannon, standards and colours near 200. This great victory gained at a very reasonable rate, and wholly owing to the left wing. The right, though commanded by the great Prince Eugene, contributed very little towards it. Major Creed being killed in the action, Mr. Cardenel and Colonel Sibourg tell me I may depend upon having a troop: but they have not yet settled the majority, being unwilling to give it Prime for some good reasons: yet being eldest captain and wounded in the action seems to counterbalance. I have escaped very well in both these actions, but had my horses shot under me in both—in this last in the middle of the enemy, and had been infallibly killed, if English troopers had not been much braver than French gens d'armes. Colonel Sibourg had the same fortune, but was ridden over by two or three squadrons and very much bruised. To give you my opinion how this great matter was brought about—next to overruling Providence—it is owing to two things; first, a very good disposition of our troops, which, as is reported here, was concerted betwixt my Lord Duke and Prince Eugene only; and secondly, a very great fault committed by Marshal Tallard, who putting 26 battalions into the village of Blinheim to cover the right of his army so weakened the centre that with our horse we pierced a passage to the town of Houghstat (Höchstädt), and cut off all communication betwixt the right and left wings of their army. I hear Captain Burton is killed.

1704, August 17.—Camp at Steinheim.

Our army, which lay on their arms in the enemy's camp on Wednesday night, after the battle, made a small movement on Thursday and came with the right to Wittesling[en] and the left to this place. The Elector of Bavaria and the Marechal de Marsin with the remainder of their army passed the Danube the same day over the bridge of Lavingen (Lauingen), which they burned as soon as they were over, and marched to Burleffingen near Ulm. And yesterday they retired further up the

river towards the Iller. We have since repaired that bridge, as also another at Hochstet (Höchstädt). We have an account that yesterday morning early the troops that were in garrison at Augsburg quitted the town and are marched to join the Elector: and this morning two deputies came from thence to wait on my Lord Duke and pray his Grace's protection. Thereupon a detachment is ordered to march and take possession of the town. The number of prisoners increase every day by the coming of those who in the rout escaped into the country: they amount now to about 11,000, besides more than 1,200 officers, and are very uneasy to us: but we hope soon to dispose of them. The M[ll] de Tallard, with 16 general officers and 13 colonels which he has requested may be with him, will be going on Tuesday towards Francfort and Hanau. His Grace sends a guard of a captain and 50 English horse to attend them. Our army is to advance at the same time towards Ulm, in order to oblige the enemy to decamp from that place, which is the last where they have any magazines in this country. This day was observed as a day of thanksgiving through the whole army for our success, and concluded with a triple discharge of all our artillery and small shot. His Grace has declared Brigadier Ross a Major-General and the Lord John Hay, Colonel Meredyth, Colonel Palms and Colonel Cadogan Brigadiers.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Captains, &c. - -	13	33
Lieutenants - -	13	45
Ensigns - - -	9	26
Soldiers - - -	483	1,079

(In another hand):—

Captain Littleton has sent an express this evening that he has taken two French privateers of 28 and 24 guns.

1704, August 19. Albemarle Street.— ———— to Thomas Coke.

Could I have followed my own inclinations I had before this time waited on you at Melbourne; but I was hurried from Hinchinbrook by letter from the Navy Office. We are not cool yet since the good news. I question whether there has been so decisive a battle since that at Pharsalia. That at Pavia was not so extensive, Christendom being not so much concerned in the consequence of it. On Sunday I was [at] Windsor, where I found my Lord Treasurer sensibly overjoyed, for this has given the balance of Europe into the Queen's hands. By the favour of your letter I presume you intend a kindness to one, who, I believe, has gratitude and ability enough to return it in a very agreeable manner. I am promised something that may be worth a character in my next. Last night I was at Si's, who would fain have brought that young Centinel (that by the description ought to have been one of that company which I raised once in Leicester Fields) to justify himself from all stains and aspersions, but I did not see him. The other you and St. John saw at that time was the dependent on my Lord Pawlett's family, whom I had once met there. I cannot tell what to say to him, unless according to the S.S. (Scriptures ?) it happened that one shall be taken and another left. I am now going with Mr. Brydges to the play; but intend to call at the place aforesaid, to desire that a dish which I tasted last night may be set by for me; for though I had then my belly full, there is more left, and I shall be again hungry. Since the news I have not seen any creature so like a Jacobite as a Whig: their looks, their blood and their goodwill to the Government are the same. Dear Mr. Coke adieu. [*No signature.*]

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1704, August 19. London.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

I am to return you my humble thanks for the favour of your last which I received in the country, and in it for the account you sent me of the General Mortgage, and am glad to find we daily lessen it, notwithstanding the disadvantages of the war and decrease of trade. At my coming to town I met the joyful news of my Lord Marlborough's great and happy victory. . . . Our prisoners increase daily, for the French soldiers finding no protection from the boors of the country, and being ignorant of the ways and consequently of the best means of hiding themselves, think it more for their interest to surrender themselves prisoners than to run the hazard of being knocked on the head by the peasants, who now reckon them the causes of their country being ruined. Marshal Tallard and the other Generals will go near, I fancy, to be sent into England: the common soldiers exchanged for those we have lost in Savoy and Portugal, which in effect will be as good as sending them so many recruits. We have no news from our fleet since that of the taking of Gibraltar. 'Tis a very strong place, and though our seamen behaved themselves to the wonder of every body, yet had there been a garrison of 1,000 men in it, it had been impossible for any fleet to have taken it. It will not protect a fleet against a superior one, but 'twill be of use and safety for single ships, or four or five men of war, and in that respect of great advantage to our trade: so that I heartily wish the Kings of Portugal and Spain may be inclined to send a garrison to keep it, without which we must be obliged to abandon it.

1704, August 21.—Camp at Sefelingen (Söfflingen, adjoining and west of Ulm).

On Monday the Maréchal de Tallard with most of the other prisoners of note, marched from Hochstet towards Hanau and Francfort under a guard of 40 English Dragoons. At the same time the repartition was made of all the rest of the prisoners, who were ordered to several places adjoining for the better conveniency of keeping them till they can be removed further into the country. We find now the whole number, including near 3,000 that have taken on in our troops, to exceed 13,000 officers and soldiers. On Tuesday the army marched from Steinheim and encamped with the right at Printz (Brenz?) and the left at Gondelfingen, from whence we advanced yesterday to Langenau and Ober Elchingen, and today we came to this place, within little more than an English mile of Ulm. Upon our march we heard of great numbers of officers of the enemy that had been buried in the several villages we came by: and we are told by the people here that when the enemy marched from Ulm, they carried off with them upwards of 7,000 wounded, whereof near a thousand were officers: that they burned a great number of their waggons that they might make use of the horses to make brancers (brancards) to carry off the officers with greater ease. All our hussars with several parties of horse are in pursuit of them, and with the country people cut off all that cannot keep up with their army; so that we hear they have made great slaughter of them. The enemy have left in garrison here four French battalions and five of Bavaria. We are blocking up the place in the meanwhile till it be settled what troops shall carry on the siege: and then the rest of the army will advance through the country of Wirtemburg towards the Rhine. This morning a deputy came hither from the city of Memingen to crave the Duke of Marlborough's protection, and brings advice that the Electrice of Bavaria was passed through that place with five of her

children under an escort of fourteen squadrons of horse in order to follow the Elector.

(1704), August 22.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

The two inclosed papers have the perfectest list I can yet meet with of the slain on our side. The Elector has drawn off his garrisons and totally abandoned the country. If Villeroy come up to him, he seems to design another push for it, otherwise to retire into France. We are in good hopes the news we had by the last letters from the Hague may prove true. They said many letters from France spoke of an engagement at sea in which the French were worsted. This is certain that letters from France of good credit said there are two expresses come in from Madrid, which made the Court uneasy, and were kept very secret. . . . There has been much noise of a plot. The City on Thursday was ready to take arms. The Exchange was full of it that the Queen was to have been blown up at Windsor: and the blow being missed there, she was assaulted as she came to Hampton Court, and wounded in the hand. We at this end of the world hear nothing, but that some returns had been discovered from France, but neither the sums, nor the persons to whom they were sent of any moment. I saw a letter from the Apothecary-General that said my Lord North and Gray's right hand had been cut off; it was so shattered it could not be cured: that it was likely Oglethorp would die of the wound he received at Schellenberg: that Lord Forbes and Lord Mordaunt were badly wounded. Mr. St. Johns and his family are gone to Wiltshire. I shall set forward next Tuesday for Chester. The desire I have to wait on you will make my stay there very short. I hope to wait on you at Melbourn about the 26th of September if that time be convenient for you.

1704, August 24.—Camp at Sefelingen.

On Friday the Governor of Ulm sent out of the town 430 prisoners of our troops taken at Hochstet, Dillingen and on other occasions, with a compliment to my Lord Duke of Marlborough, praying his Grace will take a fitting opportunity to return an equal number of theirs: but being all of the German troops, his Grace sent them to Prince Eugene. The Elector of Bavaria's communication with his country being entirely cut off, a trumpet came hither last night with a letter from the Elector's Highness dated at Dutlingen the 21st instant, desiring my Lord Duke to give conveyance to one inclosed to the Electress, which his Grace sent forward by a trumpet of his own to Munich, the Electress with her children being gone back thither. Prince Lewis of Baden came hither today to confer with my Lord Duke and Prince Eugene, having left his army encamped at Lawingen, which will be here tomorrow or Tuesday; and the heavy artillery, which was before Ingoldstadt, will follow in a day or two, to carry on siege of Ulm. My Lord Duke with the English troops, and the greatest part of those in the pay of her Majesty and the States will march on Tuesday towards the Rhine.

1704, August 24. Barfleur, near the South Cape.—Copy of the Report by Sir Cloudesley Shovell of the Action between the English Fleet of 53 ships and a French Fleet of about 49 ships.

1704, August 28.—Camp at Sefelingen.

On Tuesday the troops began their march towards the Rhine by different routes for the ease of the country. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough will follow tomorrow in order to join them. Prince Louis intends to march at the same time with the Imperial horse, and Prince Eugene is going to Rotweil to assemble the troops in those parts and the levies, to join us on the Rhine. We shall leave General Thungen here

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with the forces that were to have besieged Ingoldstadt, to attack Ulm in case the place be not surrendered by composition, of which we have some hopes. The Emperor has ordered the troops that have been acting against the Elector of Bavaria on the borders of Tyrol under the command of Lieutenant-General Guttenstein and Lieutenant-General Tierheimb [Thierheim ?] to march immediately to join the Comte de Linange [Leiningen], in order to make a diversion in favour of the Duke of Savoy : and Comte Maffey will set out tomorrow on his way to Turin to acquaint his Royal Highness with the measures that are taking for the rest of the campaign, which 'tis hoped may oblige the enemy to draw a considerable body of their troops out of Italy. By letters we have intercepted of the 19th instant, going from Dutlingen to the French Court, the enemy own the loss of upwards of 40,000 men, killed taken prisoners and by the general desertion in their retreat, which was in very great disorder the whole way.

(1704), August 31. (Petersham.)—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke, at Melborn.

I suppose you are much taken up the time you are at home in your garden, for which this weather is very pleasant. Mr. Hardinge tells me it is ready for the trees. For news I know of none but public, which is sufficiently good to satisfy everybody at present, though it is almost impossible for some to be really pleased, since my Lord Mall[borough] must have so great a share in the honour of it. My Lord Hyde and my Lady went yesterday to the Bath, and my Lord Rochester and his daughter have been some time gone to my Lord Conoways.

1704, September 2.—Camp at Gross Gordach.

The English and Danish troops that marched under the command of General Churchill from Sefelingen the 26th past encamped that night at Launsheim : the next day they continued their march to Gross Seissen : the 26th to Ebersbach, where they halted the 29th. The 30th they came to Gross Heppach, and the 31st to Mundelsheim, when they halted. Yesterday and this day we passed the Neckar at Lauffen, and came to Gross Gordach. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough joined us on Sunday evening at Mundelsheim from the camp before Ulm, which he left the day before at five in the morning. Comte Wratislaw stays there to receive the proposals of the Elector of Bavaria for delivering up the place : and General Thungen, who commands the siege is making preparations for carrying it on with vigour, if it be not surrendered. He has with him twenty-four squadrons, and twenty-three battalions, besides those men which are on their march to join him. He was to open the trenches on Saturday night, and will attack the place with forty pieces of cannon besides mortars. When we are masters of this place, the French will have no more troops on this side the Rhine. My Lord Duke having received an invitation from the Duke Regent of Wirtemberg by his Grand Mareschall to his residence at Stutgard, his Grace went thither yesterday morning accompanied by several general officers ; and after a very splendid entertainment returned in the evening to the army. The enemy having repassed the Black Forest, and being since retired over the Rhine, Prince Eugene did not go to Rotweil as he intended, but went directly to Rastadt, to assemble the troops and march them towards Phillipsburg. Prince Louis is gone for three or four days to Aschaffenburg.

1704, September 3. Eppingen.—This day we marched from Gross Gordach to Eppingen, and tomorrow the Duke of Marlborough will advance with the horse to Langebrück, and from thence to Phillipsburg,

to join the troops Prince Eugene is assembling there from the Lines, in order to pass the Rhine and take post on the other side, while the foot comes up by easier marches.

1704, September 14. London.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

Being desirous you should have the account of Sir George Rook's engagement as early as is possible, though 'tis very late and I but just come from the Admiralty, I could not forbear sending it you by this post. As soon as Sir G. understood by his scouts that the enemy was in sight he gave the necessary directions for the disposition of his fleet, viz., that the van should be commanded by Sir Cloudesley, and led on by Sir John Leake, that the Dutch should have the rear, and himself remain in the centre. His whole number consisted of 53 of the line, and the French of 52 of the line and 24 gallies. After this he bore down upon them, but they, instead of expecting us, crowded all the sail they could away. However on the 13th of August we got up with them off Cape Malaga, and then the battle began. After two hours dispute, our van defeated theirs, and the Dutch did the like by their rear: but five of our biggest ships in the middle having spent every jot of their powder and shot (the greatest part of their store having been expended before at Gibraltar) and forced thereby to be towed out of the battle, the burthen of the day fell very heavy on the main body, especially Sir G. his own ship, the *St. George* and *Shrewsbury*, and lasted till night put an end to it. Next day they had the wind of us, but would not engage again, so that day was spent in repairing the damages of the preceding one. The next day the wind coming about easterly we bore down to them again, for they were to the westward of us, and by four came up with them: but it being so late it was judged best to defer renewing the fight till morning, which they stayed not for, but took the advantage of the darkness of the night and stole away for Tholon. Sir George is expected at Portsmouth within these four or five days. He hath not lost any ships: about 2,700 men killed and wounded of the Dutch and us, amongst whom are Sir Andrew Leake and Captain Cow of the *Renelagh*, the *Albermarle*, a Dutch ship of 64 guns, and the best of but eleven that they had in the engagement, blew up about three days after it by an accident. Sir George writes word that they must needs be so disabled that there's no danger of any insult on the coast of Portugal, nor any attempt from them upon Gibraltar, where for its security he hath left 2,000 marines in garrison. You'll pardon this scrawl. I am sorry (if you are so) to acquaint you that your friend Mr. Sheson, if in one of those that took the Canada ship, must have been in the Towy, and consequently carried into Brest, that ship having been taken by the French.

1704, September 16. Derby.—John Dakeyne to Thomas Coke.

I came hither today to wait upon you, and also to desire that I may serve you in any post or place in the country or London you have to dispose of. Business relating to the law is much less than formerly: that is my profession and I could easily embrace more of that or other concerns that may be offered. . . I am glad my daughter has the happiness to wait upon yours at Wing. I hope she gives good satisfaction in her place, and if you think fit, I desire her wage may be something augmented being, as I hear, but 3*l.* per annum. I had the favour to be one of your clerks at the election.

1704, September 21. London.—Robert Jennens to Thomas Coke.

Not being able to send you acceptable news of your wine being in your cellar prevented me writing. By this time I believe it is, for it

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was entered on Tuesday, and my deputy promised to send it home by night. But I fear it will cost you more than the last, though I made use of all my interest to serve you. . . Mrs. Norman is just married to Charles Bertie's son. They were at the Park on Sunday, in as fine a chariot as Lord Kingston's and six horses, and the couple as fine as embroidery and tissue could make them. She looked fresh and gay, of a complexion that would not bear a long confinement: put her down again in your table book from the lists of maids to that of matrimony. Now for news and politics. Every post from Holland cheers us with good news. Our friend the Duke not only conquers, but flies to take advantages and every minute does something towards the destruction of his enemies. Ulm surrendered, Landau besieged, and Trierbach I believe the same by this time. The King of the Romans is coming to the army, to spoil if possible the good agreement that is amongst the generals. It's said that the Elector has desired to have all his own troops with him in Flanders, and the absolute power of government invested in him, which is refused him: which at present has stopped his journey thither. For our sea battle, both sides have been well banged, neither has much reason to brag of a victory, though both sides pretend it. But taking the circumstances of their superiority of strength and place, cleanness of ships and galleys, better provided with ammunition and provision, demonstrates that they are not here the people that we are; and their want of real virtue has made them lose such an opportunity of destroying us, which I hope they'll never have again. For the Duke of Marlborough, his very enemies are forced to sing his praises (though with sour faces) as well as his friends. Sir George Rooke has gained a great deal of reputation, both for his courage and conduct in this battle: but, as you know, no man in England is more pushed at by his numerous enemies than he. Several detracting expressions are thrown out against him by particulars, which sway, I believe, very little with the public. By the care you have taken of my friend Seyers you may expect good linen. The yachts will be soon going, by whom I will send them, and for your shirts. I could be longer, but you see I have neither room nor reason for it. Entirely yours.

(1704), September 23. Chester.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke at Melbourn.

I am detained here two days longer than I designed and it will be Friday evening before I can reach Melbourn. Our news still improves upon us, and we have nothing to wish, but that our winter campaign at home may, in its way, be as successful as the summer one abroad has been. I have heard nothing from Bucklebury since I left the town: I hope I may hear from you an account of the health of those good ladies there.

1704, September 23. (London.)—Robert Jennens to Thomas Coke.

Two posts from Holland, and three from Lisbon bring no news. But just now an account is come that Sir George Rooke is seen off the Start, which makes me write. Lord Delaware is past danger: and the Queen has forgiven Feilding. Lord North, Captain Windham and Oglethorp dead. Duke Marlborough has got an ague. On Saturday I set forward for Newmarket.

1704, September 26–October 13. Camp at Weissembourg.

September 26.—My Lord Duke of Marlborough having waited on the King of the Romans at the Camp before Landau, and visited the approaches our troops have made to the place, returned to his quarters on Wednesday evening, as Prince Eugene did next morning. Yester-

day four Prussian regiments of foot marched from hence to reinforce the troops that carry on the siege, and General Thungen is expected this day with sixteen battalions of those that were employed in the siege of Ulm. . . . The continued rains have somewhat interrupted our works before Landau for these three days past. However we hope a battery of thirty great guns may begin to play tomorrow. On Wednesday there was arrived before the place 34 twenty-four pounders, 12 twelve pounders, 11 mortars, 2 howitzers and 100 hand mortars.

September 29.—On Saturday the 27th the garrison of Landau made a great sally, in which we had twenty-six men killed and wounded. They did no damage to the works, being soon repulsed with a much greater loss on their side, our horse pushing them into the counterscarp . . . the cannon are brought down to the trenches to be placed on the batteries, which are nearly completed for thirty pieces. Yesterday my Lord Duke of Marlborough waited again on the King of the Romans at his quarters near Landau: and after dinner attended him to the Camp, where his Majesty reviewed the troops drawn up in two lines. His Grace returned hither this afternoon. Last night the enemy made a great fire from the town upon the relief of the trenches, but with very little effect, for we lost but two men. . . . Monsr. Meermann is gone back towards Bavaria, having received from the Prince of Salms, Grand Maitre to the King of the Romans, an answer to the proposals he had made in behalf of the Electoress.

October 3.—Yesterday morning the King of the Romans, attended by the principal officers of his court and army, came to [from ?] the Camp before Landau to see the troops encamped here, which were for that purpose drawn out in two lines. His Grace received his Majesty at the left of the army, and waited on him along the lines: after which his Majesty was saluted with a triple discharge of the artillery and small arms. He was pleased to express himself extremely well satisfied with the good condition he found the troops in. And after having been splendidly entertained, with all the court and chief officers, by my Lord Duke his Majesty returned in the evening for Landau, whence we have an account that the Imperial battery of thirty pieces began to play on Wednesday the 1st instant and have already ruined the gate and some part of the ravelin. Yesterday they began to work on the Prussian battery: this is designed for 28 pieces. . . 'Tis thought the counterscarp will be attacked in five or six days.

October 13.—On Friday the 10th the disposition being made for a second attack of the redoubt, which the enemy retook the night before, the same was put in execution with good success about nine at night. The dispute was very hot for above an hour, during which time the enemy endeavoured three several times to repossess themselves of it, but were at last obliged to give it over, with very considerable loss: and our men continue in possession of the post, having since completed a lodgement on the foot of the glacis. The enemy upon their retreat set fire to great quantities of powder, with intent to spring their mines: which being perceived by our men was prevented from taking effect by their cutting the fuses. On Saturday we continued searching for mines in the redoubt, and discovered several branches leading to them. The same day the two approaches on the left were advanced, one within sixty, the other within forty paces of the glacis. Yesterday our men in the redoubt cut into one of the enemy's mines, out of which they took eight hundredweight of powder. Our approaches on the left are now within twenty-five paces of the glacis, from whence we shall draw

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another parallel to secure the batteries which are to be made on the counterscarp as soon as we have found out the rest of their mines. Deserters from Landau report that the Governor is wounded. . . . This morning a battalion of the Royal Regiment of Foot, Brigadier Hamilton's, Lieut.-General Ingoldsby's and Colonel Tatton's Regiments marched from hence towards Gemmersheim, where they are to embark on the Rhine for Holland. These regiments with the five battalions sent down some time since are to supply the places of ten Dutch battalions and six squadrons of horse, that are to be drawn out of the garrisons in Holland to march towards the Moselle. General Churchill and my Lord Orkney are likewise gone with those regiments, intending to make use of the waters for their health, before they embark for England.

1704, October 2. London.—James Brydges to Thomas Coke.

. . . The meeting of Parliament is fixed to the 24th of this month, so that I hope to have the happiness of seeing you very shortly in town. I was at Windsor t'other day when I met Sir George Rook, and never saw him look better in my life. He says that side of the *Royal Catharine* that was next the fire of the enemies is so mauled that all above water must be rebuilt. 'Tis a very great happiness our fleet arrived so well home: the weather, God be thanked, was very favourable: and Sir George's conduct both in and since the engagement is universally applauded. The Queen leaves Windsor I hear on this day fortnight. My Lord Treasurer hath been very ill of the stone and gravel, insomuch that he was forced to defer his journey to Newmarket, a sure sign of his being very bad. I have sent you inclosed a copy of Sir Cloudesley's letter to the N.B. giving an account of the action.

1704, October 3. London. — Elinor Gayman to the Honourable Squire Coke, at his house at Melborn in Darbyshire.

All things are well here and safe as yet. I hope it will continue so, though there is abundance of robbery committed and murder here. A watchman killed in pursuit of a thief; whereby the Queen granted a gallows to be erected in Drury Lane to hang the thief before the door he robbed. A gentleman last Saturday night beheaded in his own house, and his house robbed. But I have got the Smith's man now to lie in the house, and shall do my endeavour for preservation; and wish your worship safe home. I am your faithful humble servant to command.

1704. October 7. London. — Elinor Gayman to Squire Coke at Melborn.

I received the inclosed last night. All things are safe and well here. But at my Lord Wootten's house at Hampstead the gardener, a very old man, was killed in a barbarous manner by five men in his bed: they had first bound his man, and cut the rope of the bell, that he could not ring up the family: the thieves are not found. Pray God send your worship safe home, and your family.

1704, October 8. Weissenburg. — Lieutenant Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

We have been engaged this three weeks in the most disagreeable thing I ever met with, which is, covering a siege which advances very slowly; and which is worse in a place, when there is not the least forage to be found. Our horses live upon very bad straw, and those that are too nice for that diet die daily. In short the Imperialists undertake sieges without cannon, ammunition or engineers with as much assurance as they did a war without money credit or troops. Our greatest

comfort is, the French (if we can believe the intelligence we hear) are in a very bad condition, and not able to attempt raising the siege, should we march toward Trarbach; which we talk of investing, that we may lose no advantage that may be made out of our late victory. My Lord Duke has given out no commissions since the battle. I fear he wants remembering the promise he made you in my behalf. There is not one of those that call themselves pretty fellows in our army but what has asked for the troop: and most of the old Captains in other regiments for the Major's post, and offer to back their pretentions with a thing that sways much in the world. For my own part if I don't deserve a troop now, I never will pretend to do it: and since I had not the good fortune to buy Captain Sulley (which if I had done, I should have been infallibly Major now) I think I will never purchase one. They like our two eldest Captains, Prime and Norton, so little that I am in much doubt how it will go. I wish, instead of an advantage, it may not be a great prejudice to me. But I'll trouble you no more now with this matter, and let railing alone against some people that I have some reason to do, till a more convenient season.

1704, October 10. Whitehall.—Henry St. John to Thomas Coke.

Dear Tom, I send you at last the purse, which is the richest and best filled that I have been able to get, after searching all the shops in town, and being more than once disappointed. We hear that your brother is going to be married to Lady Harper's sister. If so, I hope the lady will be endowed in this purse, and I shall be pleased to have had any share in being serviceable on an occasion where your family is concerned. I send you no news because we have none. The Germans lose a world of time at the siege of Landau, and will not take the advice of those who know more of the matter than they. The French are cowed and dejected by the defeats they have received this year to a degree that is not to be expressed. Sir George Rook has done an action which all the world ought to admire, and which the generality blame. The Jews are publicly buying horses in Germany for the king of France, who without this recruit could not remount his cavalry, and no notice is taken of it. The devil's in it if this is news. Make haste to town and believe me yours ever, Harry. I say nothing to Billy [Stratford], because I suppose the varlet is coming up.

1704, October 16. Whitehall.—Henry St. John to Thomas Coke at Melborne.

Dear Tom, I have just received yours, and am glad the purse proved to your satisfaction. The use I hoped it had been for is so good a one that I cannot but be sorry to be undeceived. I go tomorrow morning to Bucklebury, and shall be back on Saturday, on which day it would be a great pleasure to meet you in town: but for God's sake do not at furthest stay longer than Sunday, because it is most certain our patriots design some gallant thing to open the session with, and that is what, out of kindness to them, every one should oppose. Though I believe in a little time all the endeavours of their friends to keep 'em on their legs will prove ineffectual. As to whores, dear friend, I am very unable to help thee. I have heard of a certain housemaid that is very handsome: if she can be got ready against your arrival, she shall serve for your first meal. Adieu, ever yours most entirely, Harry. The fat Levite is come to town.

(1704), October 17. London.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

I came to town on Saturday: on Sunday morning I waited on Mr. St. Johns, and found the solicitor with him. Both wish you would be

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here by the 23rd of this month. They cannot say there is an absolute necessity for it, but affairs are in so uncertain a state, they know not but they may have occasion for all their friends. A mail came in yesterday. The siege of Landau goes on intolerably slow. At the date of the last letters, which were just after a month the trenches had been opened, the Germans were not advanced one step further than the French were last year after seven days opening of the trenches. That which is worst is that they are jealous, and will not admit either of advice or assistance from us or the Dutch. The Duke is very uneasy, and it is thought will leave them, and go straight to the Moselle, to undertake somewhat by himself. It will be late before he comes for England. . . . My Lord Dorset owns his marriage with one of his acquaintance, one of the Roches: do you think any one will pity him? There is a strong talk there will be some attempt against the Speaker. I cannot think it will succeed, but I know not but it may be offered, and I hope you will be there.

1704, October 26. Kilkenny.—Captain John Trott to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, near St. James's Gate, London.

I left Ashburne on Monday October 2 and that day sennight landed at Ringsend, near to Dublin. Next morning by nine, mustered: I was complete, but have had since then six of my men desert from me. None of our regiment is yet clothed, which is very injurious to us. I am satisfied, was they, that not one of our men durst go from us; for the Lords Justices have put forth a declaration that whoever takes a deserter, and brings him to his officer, shall have six pounds reward: and every one that has a company in the regiment pays ten shillings towards the six pounds. You had been troubled with this sooner had not I, with three other companies, been commanded on the 11th of this instant for Kilkenny. We are quartered in the barracks: they are the best and most convenient that I ever yet saw. The barracks, they tell me, through the kingdom are the same. Provisions here are mighty cheap. The carcase of the best sheep that comes into the market is bought for two shillings: beef under halfpenny the pound. The people in this country make the old proverb good, that God sends meat, and the devil cooks. The malt drink is bad, but to make it mends we have good French claret at sixteen pence the quart. Pray my service to William Fitzherbert, John Balguy and all friends.

1704, November 1. Holmesfield.—Michael Burton to Thomas Coke, M.P., London.

I beg leave to remind you of my unfortunate loss of my poor brother, and once more to entreat your favour and assistance to reimburse me. . . . The gross of what I have laid down for him is about 520*l*., but will increase by interest.

1704, November 8. Foston.—Richard Bate to Thomas Coke, Westminster.

The late misfortunes in my family are the cause of my being here at this time, for conveniency of air and some retirement from business, to which I must again return upon arrival of our fleet from the West Indies, now daily expected. I am much surprised to hear I am again one of the three nominated for Sheriff of this County, since it is so generally known my occasions in the city so much require my attendance. . . . I must at this time beg your assistance by getting me now excused. . .

1704, November 8. Weissenburg.—Lieutenant Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

The Prince of Baden is now sufficiently revenged for our robbing him of a share of the glory of the victory of Bleidhem. He has spun out this siege till the left wing of horse, to which that action was chiefly owing is entirely ruined. We have not above twenty horses a troop left, and probably there will not ten of those be able to march to Holland. I have lost six of my own equipage. Besides the want of forage we have a pestilential distemper amongst them that carries off forty or fifty a day. I suppose you will expect to hear something of the siege of Landau: but we here have quite left off asking about it. I can only tell you that we are lodged upon the counterscarp, and have finished two batteries, and pretend to have the third ready by tomorrow. But ammunition is very scarce, for yesterday the English and Dutch gunners desiring to know if they were to fire as many rounds as they usually did in a day, at sieges, they were answered the half was enough.

1704, November 8. Bramcoate.—Sir R. Burdet, Bart., to Thomas Coke at the House of Commons, Westminster.

. . . You are the only person that I can apply to, and I am forced to rely on your discretion. The judges have put me in the middle of the three presented to the Queen for sheriff: and (to be plain) I resolve not to serve: rather choosing to be at the mercy of the Queen for a fine, than run any other hazard. I have served my country to the best of my understanding for more than twenty years. I have not spared my purse nor my body. I understand how to serve this office at a small expense, but, having been faithful to the Government in Church and State, until an age that obligeth me to lay aside all public business, I hope I may be excused in this, as well as others. I am not willing to say more being so well known to you.

1704, November 9. Breda.—Robert Mundy to Thomas Coke, M.P., Westminster.

Soon after the late battle I made my application to my Lord Duke, who was pleased to repeat the promise he made to Mr. Harpur. The actions of this campaign have furnished his Grace with opportunities of performing what he so generously promised. Several vacancies are already filled up, which gives me great reason to fear another disappointment. But if I might be so happy to have the favour of your letter to my Lord, all seeming difficulties would vanish: which humble request granted will highly oblige our whole family, as well as lay an eternal obligation on your most humble servant.

1704, November 29. Brampton.—John Akrode to Thomas Coke, M.P.

Upon Saturday last Mr. Ashton desired me and some others to set our hands to a letter to you and Mr. Curzon, on the behalf of many persons in and about Sheffield, to beg of you both that you would please to assist them in preventing the passing of a Bill endeavoured to be procured this present Sessions of Parliament by Macclesfield to suppress making of horn buttons, which, if it be obtained, will be the ruin of many families in and about Sheffield, who at present live well by following that manufacture. The truth is this country and (as I believe) a great part of the nation is sadly abused by those in and about Macclesfield by making such bad buttons, both as to its making, and the bad materials they are made of: so that three sets of buttons will not wear out an ordinary cloth, which has forced people to invent other buttons of more durable lasting. And to me it seems unreasonable that

Coke MSS. Macclesfield should engross the whole trade, and force us to buy their bad wares at their own prices, made as I hear of an Indian commodity, which is nought in itself and takes away our ready cash in specie to purchase it: whereas, if I be truly informed, our native commodity of wool (which is now at a very low rate) would make excellent buttons, help to consume the wool and get many hands at work, to make it ready for the button makers. I would therefore most humbly beg you will please to use your best endeavours to prevent the passing of the Bill; or if that cannot be, if there can be a way found out to enforce wrought buttons to be better made, it will be for the good of the whole country.

1704, December 1, Amington.—Edward Repington to [Thomas Coke].

Formerly, Mr. Bromley never failed of a catalogue of grievances every Sessions, but at last I took pity of him, and resolved to attack you in your turn. This it is to have the misfortune to be acquainted with an impertinent fellow, who, because he is uneasy himself, must be troubling those that are not: though if matters proceed as they do, I'm apprehensive too many will be possessed with different sentiments to mine, which tend only to the public good. It has been thought proper by the legislators to charge four shillings in the pound upon land, but at the same time I don't hear that anything is done to enable the owners to pay so great a tax. Never was less money stirring, or commodities (except foreign) cheaper. The best beef is but 2¼*d.* a pound, mutton 2*d.*, wheat 3*s.* the bushel, and all other grain proportionable: nor can, for want of vent, any of these things be sold in a quantity. Cattle and sheep are sent to fairs and return unbought, and it's reckoned good market when two or three strike of corn will go off. At this rate how such vast sums of money can be paid which are demanded, I can't foresee. Were the men of war obliged to victual in England, from whence they are supplied with all necessaries but provisions, the price of cattle would rise. It would be some help to have the East India ships stored from hence where so many of their useless are sold. But instead of that, it's here reported (and not as I fear without grounds) that Ireland, which contributes so little towards the carrying on the war, furnishes all or the greater part of what is for the subsistence of the fleet, and the merchant men too. It's not for mortals to surmount impossibilities, and unless speedy care be taken, the Midland counties must be inevitably ruined, for want of sale for their goods: and by the Receivers sending that little money away in specie, that should circulate here. I should think that if 15,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* was yearly laid out in corn by the Government, and sent to Sawley Ferry, which is the nearest place to us that is navigable, in order to be transported, it would raise the drooping spirits of the people, who must have something done for 'em. Which if refused, some attempts should be made upon the Spanish West Indies, from whence golden mountains would be expected, and the thoughts of men at present buoyed up, with the prospect of having quantities of bullion coined: that money might be more current among them. For other trans-marine projects they serve to ruin, rather than enrich, the nation. England was never poorer than under the reign of Edward 3, notwithstanding his successes against France. You may say it's Roman like and generous to assist our allies. Perhaps it may be so, but the Romans always made an advantage of their allies in the conclusion, and were too wise to ruin themselves out of mistaken notions of honour, being ever well rewarded for the assistance they sent. The Black Prince would not engage to

reinvest Peter of Castile in his throne, without assurances of being well requited. But we go upon different principles, exclusive of prudential considerations. A nominal king is sent to a king disused to arms, whose subjects for 30 or 40 years never saw sword drawn in anger, or a musket fired that carried anything but powder. This was a noble adventure and could not but succeed when so many great statesmen were so remarkably concerned in it. When a raw, undisciplined army pretends to invade a nation long trained up in war, and the inhabitants confirmed in their allegiance to the king in possession, matters must undoubtedly go well, especially when the useful succours lie so remote, and must be sent by sea, where contrary winds, storms or dangers so often retard, if not shatter, the transporting fleets. This, in my language, is perfect knight errantry, when empty fame is hawked after, only to be acquired with blood and wounds. I wish we in the country could live as the knights errant did, who, we don't find in all their romances, were ever hungry, wanted money, or other conveniences of life. I'll conclude with some observations upon a Scotch Act, called the Act of Security, wherein I find our good neighbours enabled to invade England, who never wanted the will when they had the power, which they can't be long without, having a permission to arm and discipline the whole country. The French king I suppose, when things are ripe for the design, won't let them want money to go thorough with it. It's not the first time the Scots have invaded this nation with success: there's some alive that don't forget Leslie's coming into England, which gave so much encouragement to the late unhappy Civil War. The least the Senate can do, since what's past cannot be recalled, is to make the militia useful, and petition the Queen, that those gentlemen who proposed the passing, and consequently could apprehend no danger from this extraordinary Act, may have the honour of defending the frontier: that we northern people, when our money's gone, may be secure of those few moveables that will be left us. I shall say little about the Bill of Occasional Conformity which I presume will pass. The fanatics, should it be rejected, cannot be obliged with less than an unlimited power. They are the persons who, to my certain knowledge, have no regard to the merits of the Queen, at least all that I know, and I'm sure I know too many. I suppose it won't be thought proper to distaste the Church Party, who I'm confident are the only fast friends the Queen has, and who, in all fortunes, will never be shaken, unless treated with great disregard and coldness, and no advances made for the preservation of the best of religions. For what relates to the Scotch Settlement of the Crown, it is no concern to me. May the Queen last as long as I do. By this you'll believe that I don't wish her Majesty a short reign, but be it short or long, I don't wish to survive her. May her General continue the same, who though he has had the misfortune to lose his own heir, has however made us fortunate, since he can have no other design but in making Fame his heir, to perpetuate his memory and his successes to the security of our posterity.

1704, December 2. (Ashborne.)—Captain John Beresford to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster.

I shall not fail to do my cousin Harpur and Mr. Stanhope all the service in my power, but we have a loss of two in this place, one dead, the other fled. I have met with some emissaries of Mr. Crompton in this town; however I think they would have found people here staunch. I wish we had more of 'em. It was an omission that we had not an extract of the poll book of the flying squadron of out votes, for it's odds they will not be found where they resided three years ago. They must

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now be hunted out with speed, in order to which I will write to Mr. Heathcote. As to the town, I can contribute little; I presume it is already curried over by both parties. I spoke to the Jerroms, and I find they lie under some disgust as to some charges last election, and also the nomination of sheriff's men. I hope to keep them neuter, at least. Tom Wright of Sudbury likewise pretends some disobligation about a waggoner at Ticknall, wherein he suffered by the unfair dealing of Sir John's agent. This is the time to hear of all faults and complaints; but the misfortune is some may better steal horses than others look at 'em. My cousin William Hopkinson is gone to London and would be glad to give his estate some respite by getting into some sort of place, wherein if yourself and Mr. Curzon would favour him, 'twould be a very great kindness both to him and me. He hath been bred to the business of a pen, and I hope might qualify himself for a collection in the Excise, or such a post as Mr. Hand's.

1704, December 8. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster.

I hope this frosty weather will clear the London air, and preserve health to you and yours, and all friends, which I mightily desire and to see you all safe in Derbyshire. Pray do me the favour to acquaint Mr. Harpur that I had answered his, but I writ by the last post. I have sent to those few acquaintance I have, but I cannot find them altered. There is great industry used by the other side, and I guess open houses, and the Recorder coming down, which I had sent him word of. I have had much ado to make Cantrell of Newton. I do not perceive Mr. Stanhope solicits. Mr. Garratt has Sir Nathaniel [Curzon's] orders; but whether Mr. Stanhope's, or Mr. Harpur's, or Mr. Curzon's letter to Garratt would not do well, pray advise them. I hear the noble Marquis of Granby stands for Grantham.

1704, December 16. St. James's Place.—Thomas Coke to ———. Endorsed: "My Letter to Mrs. Grey about the Darby Election."

Madam, I scarce know how to presume upon giving you this trouble, but that in desiring the favour of your interest in the town of Darby for Mr. Harpur and Mr. Stanhope, who intend to offer their services again at the next election there, which must be this year, I believe I do a service to my country. And that, Madam, I hope will obtain your pardon for me, who, being witness of their behaviour in the House, can say they have served their country with great faithfulness and assiduity. And the zeal which your father had for such as did so emboldens me to ask your favour to them in their present intentions: who, I am sure, will think themselves very happy to be countenanced by your interest.

(1704, probably), Thursday morning.—Matthew Prior to Thomas Coke.

Dear Mr. Cook,—Dr. Aldrich and Mr. Stratford will chatt an hour too night with me. Stratford will have his master St. Johns for his toast and if you will have the goodness to be mine I will tell you that nobody is gladder you are Teller of the Chequer or more sincerely your friend and servant then Mat. Prior.

1704–5, January 6. Knowlehills.—Walter Burdett to Thomas Coke, a Member of the Honourable House of Commons, Westminster.

. . . I despair of your coming into this country till your garden invites you. Your woods have been as pleasant as woods could be without leaves, being stored with game, though not of all sorts, yet with plenty of some. Some neighbouring gentlemen have desired to

shoot and (against election time) I denied no gentleman that asked. You have had many ducks upon your canal; my boy at one time counted sixty. I don't know that they have been shot at, but they fly about when the woods are disturbed, and come again. One day I found somebody was in the wood who had not asked leave: I sent to see and William Ratcliff of St. Bridgets Heath was found with a gun, and had killed a woodpecker. He said he only intended to shoot such sort of birds as jays and others with fine feathers for Mr. Harding's daughters to work up: but I asked what authority he had to keep a gun: he said he was Sir John Harpur's gamekeeper and had a warrant under his hand and seal. Though this cannot authorize him to keep a gun, I would have shewn so much respect to our good neighbour as to return him his gun, if he would shew me that warrant, but I hear nothing more of that warrant, and I have not seen Mr. Harpur since. I told Mr. Harding that if he or any of his daughters desired the gun, they should have it; but they do not desire it, so that I have it in my custody. Your neighbour John Cook the quaker has been ill. Thursday last he ordered his boy to go for Dr. Bower, and as he was going in Melbourne Common his mare dropped down dead, and before he returned the master was dead too. He had not shaved his beard of some considerable time, but ordered that it should be shaved as soon as he should die. Your cousin Pool (Pole) has been very active in the night at Derby to make interest for new members there, and one while talked as if he had hopes of success for the town: but he says for the county the devil cannot stir Curzon and Coke. Sir I wish you a good new year, your gamekeeper chaplain and most humble servant.

1704–5, January 13. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament at Westminster.

Pray, if you please, give Mr. St. Johns the inclosed note. I suppose you have heard your neighbour William Coke is dead. I hope and think Mr. Fulwood will be a good-humoured man: but I would not have anybody speak to him but yourself, when you come down, for by that time I guess he will live at Melbourne.

Note inclosed.—That the press warrants be out all the year, and that the justices meet every month to execute it. That if no officers be ready to receive them, they be sent to the gaol, and be allowed 4*d.*, 5*d.*, or 6*d.* per day till the officer come for them. Justices to be allowed 4*s.* a day, and clerks 1*s.* That all people not having 40*s.* per annum freehold, that shall be convicted before the three justices of any offence about game be sent to gaol as soldiers. That the justices be judges what men are fit to go and not the officers. That a list be yearly printed and sent to Easter Sessions in each county of such masters of ships as want apprentices according to the Navigation Act, that the inland counties may have benefit by it. That every gaoler do monthly give an account to the Secretary at War of what persons lie in his custody for soldiers, their size and names, that those that are too little for land may go to sea.

1704–5, January 13. Derby.—John Harpur to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place, London. Free.

I am yet at Derby, and find Mr. Parker's being before me here of great disadvantage to my affairs. Many are engaged against Mr. Stanhope and myself, who would have been for us if our friends had been as diligent as theirs, in making application early. Mr. Crompton's interest prevails amongst the poorest burgesses; who lends them small sums of money to be paid him again by the week. But notwithstanding all

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his tricks, I think my interest is at present the best: and Mr. Stanhope's with management and his appearance amongst the burgesses will, I believe, be full as good, if not better. We are in no danger of Mr. Parker being one. What apprehensions I have are on Lord James's [Cavendish] side. I intend to be in town the latter end of next week; but lest I should be too late to serve my friends, I desire you will be so kind to take care Dr. Coke and Mr. Thomas Goodwin, when the Annuity Act is passed, may have annuities secured according to the particulars underwritten. I will order the money to be paid into the Exchequer as the Act shall direct.

Dr. Coke desires 50*l.* per annum for his life and Mrs. Elizabeth his wife.

Thomas Goodwin desires 30*l.* per annum for the life of Samuel, his brother; and 20*l.* per annum for the life of Mary Goodwin his sister.

1704-5, January 15.—Secretary St. John to Thomas Coke.

Dear Tom,—My granmother is this morning dead; so that I must intreat you to take care of the Bill for naturalizing Mrs. Cadogan. It is committed for tomorrow morning. You will settle the fees with Joddrel, and wait on the lady down to Westminster. I am, very dear friend, thine H. St. J.

1704-5, January 20. Oswestry.—Richard Pope (the Elder) to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament in London.

This may acquaint you that Mr. Fisher told me that you had a desire to dispose of that small estate that you have in these parts, by reason of the remoteness of it. In pursuance thereof I acquainted one Mr. Hunt, that married the Lord Chief Baron Ward's daughter, that hath her portion and a considerable sum more to lay out upon land. Mr. Hunt hath acquainted the Lord Chief Baron, and viewed the estate: and he told me he is willing to be the purchaser at the customary rates of the country, both for the land and the houses: but he would rather buy the land without the houses. Lands are sold here at twenty years' purchase, at the most, some at seventeen and eighteen: and houses at twelve if in good repair, and tenanted. But some of your houses want both. I writ to Mr. Fisher that Mr. Hunt would proceed in the purchase, but not hearing from him hath given you the occasion of this trouble.

1704-5, January 21.—Captain John Beresford to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, Westminster.

I received your kind letter of the 8th instant; and as to the contents of it relating to recruits, I hope the officers in these parts will succeed well and in due time, both as to the numbers they want or desire, and the time limited by their orders, viz., the 15th of February. I hope all the complaints of the execution of the late Act are not so considerable as to debar us of the benefit of a new one, with such qualifications and additions as shall be thought meet. For it would contribute greatly, I think, to the reformation of manners both in servants and other loose disorderly people, if the Act were a real terror to 'em, by the punishment of some of those that desert, for example (as the pressed men are the most apt, and consequently the officers have the least mind of them) and some pain upon the towns that openly receive and harbour them upon desertion. Otherwise it discourages constables and others in doing their duties; and I could wish all deserters were strictly looked after and sent to gaol, and thence fetched towards manning the fleet. Then they could not well scamper, and might be as serviceable. I heartily thank you for your kindness to Will. Hopkinson: and could also have wished good speed to Mr. Henry Boothby, for I believe he is

hardly used at home. I acquainted him with what you desired, that you feared he spoke too late. Upon discourse I find Sir William will give him no encouragement in the world, which is pity, for he is a very good humoured ingenious gentleman. I was in hope to have seen you at Sessions, whither I crept with much ado with a great shoe for the gout gave me a visit but made no long stay. I spoke to cousin Harpur at Derby upon two or three points concerning the contest in Cheshire next time, which I also beg your interest in, to procure Mr. Lister of Sysonby, near Melton Mowbray, his interest in his lordship of Audlem in Cheshire, where 29 votes were against, and but 3 for, last time. Cousin Harpur says his circumstances are bad, and himself in the Fleet, or absconded, and hard to be found. Sir Charles Skrymshire hath likewise the direction of a lordship of Mr. Sneyd's of Keele, called Willaston, in his minority, where 9 were against. Sir John Harpur's interest cousin Harpur I doubt not will send me a deputation for to my cousin Tom Brooke, who I could desire might be the deputy conductor of them all. I have presumed to write to Mr. Thomas Vernon, son to Sir Thomas: but cannot much brag of my speed: he seems to adhere to Mr. Offley, who is a near neighbour to his lordship of Haslingden, where above thirty went amiss before. Though I am informed that he last time gave his interest to Sir George [Warburton] and Sir Roger [Mostyn]: I wish you could improve that point. I likewise informed cousin Harpur that we were forced to be irregular in several of our doings in the Office of the Peace in these parts, for want of people of the quorum. We cannot hold privy sessions, nor do many acts there without one such, and have none but Tom Eyre, whose company we affect not: but he alone can supply all defects, and does singly in many cases the office of two.

1704–5, February 6. Comptroll Office, Whitehall.—Henry Cartwright to [Thomas Coke].

Yesterday morning his Grace the Duke of Marlborough set out for Harwich, where he embarks for Holland. My Lord Treasurer is gone to Newmarket. Mr. St. John is Secretary at War, but desires his friends may not speak of it yet. The inclosed was delivered me by Mr. Whitfield, who was ordered by the Duke to give him an account by the first opportunity of your receipt of it. I heartily wish it pleasing news. Just before the Commissioners broke up, I was sent for, Mr. Bromley in the Chair, who gave me Mr. Vanderesch his book, printed in Holland. The Commissioners desired I would answer it in a very little time: but if a man is to appear in print, he ought to be very sure of his calculations, which are very many, and different sorts in this work. I am sure I can do it effectually, but will not engage but by your approbation and advice. Mr. King has seen and spoke to me several times to receive 80*l.* of him as salary. I have as often told him I served as a volunteer, and as I at first told the Commissioners so, I could not go back: but the whole affair I humbly submit to your pleasure. I would have sent you Mr. Vanderesch's book, but I cannot get one.

1704–5, February 10.—Michael Burton to Thomas Coke, a Member of the House of Commons, London.

The season of the year drawing nigh for the Duke's going abroad and the Parliament's rise makes me hope this memorandum of my affair not unseasonable, and I still live in hopes of your favour. The last week I received an account from Mark Bacon that you had received the small present I sent you: I shall be very glad to hear it answers my expectation and proves as good as the last. Poor Mr. Wright of Eyam, a true

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friend of yours, is dead and so is Mr. Brown of Wirkesworth. Our old friend Mr. Balguy has taken the oaths to the Government.

1704–5, February 28. Lisbon.—Robert Littill to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

When I came down to Portsmouth I found Sir Thomas Dilkes: I gave him your letter and he was mighty glad to hear you was well. We set sail the next day, and was driven back at night. The morning following we weighed our anchor, and when we came over against Plymouth the *Hampton Court* came out, and the Captain came on board the flag, and I went on board in his boat. While I was on board the *Revenge* the Captain and the Admiral was mighty kind to me: and the Admiral was so kind, when my Captain came on board, to recommend me to him. We are now safe arrived at Lisbon: we have brought all the fleet in safe, and joined Sir John Leake, and today he hoisted his flag on board our ship. We shall set sail the next fair wind for Gibraltar. We was but eight days coming from St. Helens. I have never been sick since I came to sea. The Captain hath been very civil to me.

(1704–5), March 3. London.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke (at Knolehills).

Not hearing from you nor out of Derbyshire last post makes me fear your journey had some stop put to it in the way by the waters. . . . Miss's journey holds as I told you in my last: she has sat the first time for her picture with a great deal of good humour, but so very much motion, that put Mr. Dahl upon great difficulty to catch her in the posture he desired. Miss was to pay her duty to my Lord Chesterfield on Monday last, and he increased her riches with a guinea to buy playthings; and has desired she should come and dine with him before she goes.

1704–5, March 20. (London.)—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke, at his house at Melbourn in Derbyshire, to be left at Wilnferry. Loughborow bag.

On Sunday the Doctor thought it time to put a stop to Miss her ague with the Jesuits' powder: she has had no fit this two days. My Lady Carnarvon goes next week. I was yesterday to wait of her but she did not mention anything of Miss's going down with her: so I suppose she concludes of her coming some time hence when she is thoroughly settled with her new maid. Miss Mary Dakyne was taken ill of an intermitting fever: I removed her from the nursery, and was forced to send for the French maid, who Miss is very well contented and pleased with. My Lady Harpur was here this morning, and told us her going to the Bath was resolved for the second week in April. My brother John and I found Sir Thomas Fanshawe grown so weak that I fear he won't continue long. My sister Fanshawe is this day gone with my cousin Margaret Fanshawe to Jenkins for some little stay. I hope you are very near your journey towards us.

1705, March 30. Lichfield.—Lord Stanhope to Thomas Coke, M.P., at St. James's Place, London.

I had a letter this morning from Sir Harry Gough, who tells me he will stand for this place; and my former obligations to him are a tie upon me to assist him before any one else, except yourself who are so near a relation. Therefore I desire you would tell Mr. Chetwind that I am sorry I cannot serve him in this affair. I have no acquaintance with Sir John Trant, only I promised a friend of his to mention this thing to you: but you need not trouble yourself much about it.

1705, April 7. Bolduc (Bois le Duc).—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I am extremely obliged to you for the favour you did me of yours. I designed in a post or two to have given you the trouble of a letter in order to a correspondence during the campaign, in which I can only offer you a true and faithful account of matter of fact, as things happen: not doubting that you will have the original causes and reasons of motions from several of your friends that are capable of diving deeper into them than I am; of which I am sure my Colonel will not be wanting to be one. We are now likely to have a glut of vacancies, so many years expected: and I fear they come too fast to catch them all. Captain Prime seems to decline being Major, and to be weary of the service. If so I must doubly beg your assistance. The first is that you would write a letter to my Lord Duke of Marlborough, who I am sure will have some thoughts of giving it out of the regiment, though I am satisfied I shall not want anything in the power of the Duke of Schomberg or Colonel Sibourg. The second I should have been ashamed to be so unreasonable to have desired of you, if I had not been encouraged by your kind and generous offer to Colonel Sibourg on my behalf.

(1705), April 8. London.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke, at Mr. Burdett's house at Knolehills.

Your daughter left us yesterday in great joy to go to Wing. I can give you but a very ill account of our proceeding as to her picture, for there was no persuasions nor contrivance that we could think of could prevail with her to be half a moment at a time in a posture. Mr. Dahl tried an hour at a time twice, but the second time he said he found it impossible to do it to his satisfaction, and therefore desired it might be deferred till her coming to town again. My Lord Chesterfield is now so well again that he can scarce find a complaint. People are going out of town apace. My Lord Ferrers begins his journey on Monday next. The town takes care of you in your absence in providing you variety of good places, which perhaps may be as great news to you as it is to us: though since they are good, I should be glad of the certainty of it. Your standish is done at last and will come to you by the carrier.

1705, April 9.—John Beresford to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

I am very much obliged to you upon Mr. Boothby's account, to whom I have wrote by this post: he is in Hertfordshire, and will wait upon you. I am very glad of the good news yours brought from Gibraltar, which rendered our public accounts more credible; for we are often baulked with fine stories we dare not believe without vouchers. I am in hope Verona may hold out till Prince Eugene comes, if there be any more trust in the Court of Vienna than that of Paris. I presume the issuing of the writs will bring you back into the country, when I hope we shall be very easy and quiet. But your assistance will be wanting to our friends at Derby. There is one William Street of Ashover, and what care is taken of him I know not: but a line from you to Mr. Hodgkinson I believe would secure him.

(1705), April 18. London.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke, at Knolehills.

By the help of the warm weather and a new medicine I have taken since I saw you I am, thank God, very much mended in my health. Your daughter at Wing was very well when last I heard. I must ask your approbation for Miss Betty's being weaned. She has not cut any teeth a considerable time, and I remember it was the same with her

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sister, that though she was a much stronger child she was backward in that respect till she was weaned, after which her teeth came with a great deal of ease. I have bespoke the glass for size as you directed, and with a glass frame: they asked much the same for a gilt frame as for a glass one, and I thought the glass much the handsomest. My brother John dined with Sir John Harpur today: my Lady was so far indisposed as to have Dr. Shadwell with her. I have not been to wait of Mrs. St. Johns since his place. I find there is some little ceremony paid to her upon it, which I hope to do on Thursday. There is match concluded between Sir Richard Newdigate's eldest son, and Sir Thomas Twisden's youngest sister.

1705, April 22.—Thomas Hoy to (no address).

Madam, in dutiful obedience to your commands I present you with the following account in writing. Having the place of Professor of Physic in the University of Oxford, could I obtain the honour to serve her Majesty in quality of one of her Physicians in Ordinary, or in the Commission for the sick and wounded, either of them would consist with the duty of the post I already enjoy, and better support the character of it, at present too narrowly provided for. 'Tis my happiness to have your Ladyship for witness what rank of persons I have had the honour to be entrusted by in my practise, with a tolerable success and reputation for many years. And I dare appeal from the best friend to the worst enemy I have, with how much care I have always cultivated those principles her Majesty has been graciously pleased so often to recommend to us. This is the common duty of us all; but, Madam, that which makes me chiefly hope I may appear an object of her Majesty's bounty is—that since my advancement by the late king, and some years before, I have employed myself in some laborious and expensive studies, which in their happy conclusion may redound to the advantage of the public: but in the meantime are an unseen burthen upon my other affairs. . . .

1705, April 23.—John Harpur to [Thomas Coke].

If the writ come to the Mayor this week, the election will be at Derby on the 3rd of May. I hope you will come down. I'm sure your company will be very obliging, and it would be very prejudicial to my affair, if you should be absent then. I hope for Mr. Sorocol also, and if he knows any burgesses in London that would give their votes for Mr. Stanhope and me, I should take it kindly if you would take this opportunity of seeing their Derby friends. Mr. Stanhope takes little pains, nor has been at any expense; which usage makes my affairs more difficult than I expected; but I believe all will be well with your most humble servant.

1705, April 25. Oswestry.—Richard Pope (the Elder) to Thomas Coke.

According to your desire I waited on Mr. Hunt to acquaint him of the contents of your letter. His answer was that since he spake to me of the purchasing your estate an unhappy accident happened: the gentleman he had laid out 1750*l.* upon a mortgage was dead. . . . He is not willing to put a value on the houses being candell rents, and are to be valued according to the condition they are in: and there must be some better course taken to keep the houses tenanted and in repair than hath been of late. . . .

(1705), May 8. N.S. Bois le Duc.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

The garrisons of Breda, Huesden, Gorcom are now encamped within half a mile of this town at the village Fught (Vucht): we shall join

them on Friday morning and march toward Ruremonde. 'Tis generally said that we shall march towards the Moselle, and join the Hessians and Palatine troops, and a considerable body of Prussians; which army is to be commanded by my Lord Duke, if the folk aforesaid appear, which I must own I much doubt. We talk of nothing less than the siege of Trionville. But how these things will happen, you may expect an impartial account from your most obliged humble servant. I hear there is to be a regiment of dragoons raised in England. If there be any such thing, and the Colonel be anything you like I should serve, I should be very glad to be Major to it; and I believe the matter will not be very difficult, for few of my rank in the horse service will put in for it—at least none in a better post, and none in the same have the same pretensions, and backed by your recommendations to my Lord Duke. I am the more desirous of it because there is like to be no vacancy in our regiment as was expected: for if Prime sells he must starve.

1705, May 17. London John Coke to Thomas Coke at Melborne. . . . I was very much surprised to hear of my cousin Harpur's ill success at Derby. A great many honest gentlemen have met with the same disappointment. At the Hertfordshire election there were 450 polled more than ever was known at any former election. Mr. Freeman polled within eighteen as many as at the last election, and Major Halsey above a hundred more; so that we are very apt to believe there were a great [many] freeholders made by the opposite party by collusion on purpose to vote for this election. Sir Charles Barrinton had the same fate; he polled as many as ever he did, and yet he lost it by a great majority. When I heard of the success at Derby, I was told that they talked of making an opposition for the county. Meeting my Lord Scarsdale at Mayfair I told him what I had heard: he said he would write down to his agents by this post to be upon their guard against a surprise.

1705, May 28. Whitehall.—Secretary St. John to Thomas Coke. Dear Rake, I am glad to hear your election is over, your feavour gone, and your worship is again upon the hunt: for what the devil can carry you to the Bath at this time but a whore? I had writ to you ere now, but that I was more than a fortnight in the country, and since my return uncertain how to direct to you. If you do not call att Bucklebury when you leave the Bath, you and I shall quarrel. I go down thither on Fryday, but return the Monday following, and in about 10 days afterwards hope to be there for some time. I have little news to entertain you with. The town is very dull, or I am so, for I have not one bawdy story to tell of myself or friend. Really, Tom, you are missed: whoring flags without you. Lord Marlborough is got to Treves, and I have a letter from him of the 27th; but he will not be able to act by ten days so soon as he expected, the Prussians, Imperialists and Germans not having marched at the time agreed upon. In the meantime the French have invested Huy and frightened the Dutch out of their wits. As soon as he begins to move, I hope things will take another turn. Dear Tom, divert thyself, continue to love me, and be persuaded no man on earth is more entirely yours than Harry.

1705, ce 26me Juin. De Londres. — Chevalier to Thomas Coke Esquire to be left at Mr. Harrison's the Coffee man's upon the Walk at the Bath.

Monsieur, Suivant vos ordres je vous envoie la perruque de crain,[crin?] que j'espére que vous la trouverez bien. Si vous avez occasion pour

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des perruques à Londres, j'ai les plus beaux cheveux de tout Londres, et comme cela ne se rencontre pas toujours, je pris la liberté de vous en écrire, à fin que si vous en voulez avoir, j'aurai le soin de mettre tout ce que je puis avoir de plus beau. . . . Le nom du cocher est Wilkinson aux Trois Tonnes à Bath.

1705, July 23.—Robert Harley to Thomas Coke.

Sir, Several of your very good friends desire the favour to meet you tomorrow being Tuesday at seven in the evening at Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer's house to discourse together of an affair of some consequence. I am, sir, your most faithful humble servant Ro. Harley.

(1705), August 26. Camp at Ramay (Geest St. Remy near Tirlemont ?).—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I am very much obliged to you for the favour you did me in remembering me in Colonel Sibourg's, though I had not given you the trouble of a letter this campaign: I waiting an opportunity of giving an account of some coup-d'éclat, which I believe now will hardly happen this year the action as well as the horses of the English cavalry being near an end. The last thing that has been in agitation here was the attempting the passage of the Ysche, which I believe will be pretty much talked of with you in England. I don't remember I ever heard of anything that has so far divided people's opinions. Some called it very feasible, and others wholly impracticable, and each support their opinion with much warmth. You will wonder perhaps how folks sentiments should be so very different, if you do not know our army is composed of two sorts of philosophers. The first hold all things to be smooth easy and plain; the world in their opinion is like a bowling green, and one may run over it without meeting with any rubs. The others are of quite different principles, they make all things hard and rugged, they delight in raising obstacles, making difficulties, will turn a molehill into a mountain, and dry firm ground into a morass: yet such is their love to mankind, that though his eyes were open, and the way good, they will not let him go on for fear of his beating out his brains, or at least breaking his shins. I shall not be impertinent enough to give my opinion, where so great doctors differ, but give you as short an account as I can of the French camp. They had on the flank and rear of their right wing the wood of Soinies, the river Ysche all the way before them, the banks toward their right very steep, a hollow way at a little distance from the river, in which they put considerable detachments of foot; covered their centre with four villages lined with infantry. Above the hollow way to the top of the hill was plain ground where, and on their left, was most of their cavalry. The place of the easiest approach I take to be the village near Ische (Neer Ysche ?). They had two inconveniences in the ground—a ravine ran from the river almost to the wood, and made the communication between the right wing and the centre difficult, and were obliged to extend two leagues consequently, and must be thin in some places. Your most obliged humble servant.

1705, September 11. Bucklebury.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

The friendship you have for this family will make willing, I know, to take part in all that concerns them, even in their misfortunes. They had a very heavy one on Friday last in the death of poor Mrs. Winchcomb. Her small pox were of the most malignant sort, would never fill in any other part but in her head, and were attended from their first breaking out with all the fatal symptoms. Mr. St. John was pleased to summon me here on Thursday morning. I had the honour to

perform the last offices to her, as far as she was capable of receiving them: but she had very few and very short intervals of sense after I came there. I need not tell you that the great advantage the master of this place has by her death does not in the least allay his grief for it. She had made no will, by which means her fortune comes equally between the two sisters. Mr. St. John is now at Windsor. The ladies who are here are as easy as can be expected while such a loss is fresh upon them. Mrs. St. John commands me to give her service to you: I hope to be at Oxford again on Saturday.

1705, September 13. London.—William Armstrong to T. Cooke, Esq., at Melbourn.

I have been several times at Leveridge's lodgings, but he is not yet come to town. As soon as he comes I will borrow the Opera Airs and write them for you. I have sent all that are printed (being 8) by the Nottingham coachman, and ordered him to leave them for you at the Bull's Head Inn in Loughborough. He told me there are several market people come from your town thither. . . . I must beg the favour of you to give me an order to whom you please for my small bill, for here is little to be got at this time in my way. Sum 3*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* I live at Mr. Hillyards, next the Elephant and Castle, near White Hart Corner in High Holborn.

1705, September 16. Bucklebury.—William Stratford to Thomas Coke.

. . . I am indeed as busy as you are, si magnis componere parva licebit: and find that my best room, on which I design to be most expensive, will not look as well as it may do without giving you greater trouble than I durst have presumed to have thought of had not you been pleased to encourage me to it. But upon measuring my room, it is capable of receiving over the chimney a whole length: and if I may hope for such an ornament, I shall pawn the credit of our treasury to make the rest of the furniture as suitable as I can to it. Whenever I receive the books and prints I shall hasten them to you wherever you are: but I am afraid they will not come to my hands before your return from the country. They were stopped at Brussells, and I do not hear that my correspondent has received them. The good family here are all, even the females, at your service: they are as easy as can be expected while such a loss is so fresh.

1705, September 19. Whitehall.—Secretary St. John to Thomas Coke.

Dear Tom,—The hurry I was in during poor Betty's illness and the confusion of my family since her death, will I hope excuse me to you if I have not writ since we parted. I have nothing from hence to entertain you with. I grow every day less and less a man of pleasure, and my last misfortune, which affected my body less than any of the former, has made a deeper impression on my mind. I should be glad to know what temper you find gentlemen in: whether they will think it reasonable to support the Queen, who has nothing to ask but what we are undone if we do not grant: and who, if she does make use of hands they do not like, has been forced to it by the indiscretion of our friends. The real foundation of difference between the two parties is removed, and she seems to throw herself on the gentlemen of England, who had much better have her at the head of 'em than any ringleaders of fashion. Unless gentlemen can show that her administration puts the Church or the State in danger, they must own the contest to be about persons: and if it be so, can any honest man hesitate which side

Coke MSS. to take. I shall be settled in town in a fortnight. A month I suppose brings you up. You will be welcome to all your acquaintance, but to none so much as, dearest Tom, your ever faithful H. St. John.

1705, September 22. Scotland Yard.—Samuel Lynn to Honble. Mr. Cook.

Mr. St. John is at present very ill of an ague and fever; but I hope the worst is over. We have very little news from abroad: what there is you'll find inclosed.

1705, September 24. Camp at Arschot. [Copy of a despatch.]

The workmen sent from the army to demolish the line between the Neethe and the Demer, being for expedition's sake augmented to near five thousand, have already levelled all the redoubts, and made so good a progress in the rest of the work that the whole will be finished on Saturday next. We have had almost continual rain for three days past, which begins to incommode the troops that are encamped in the low grounds.

(In another hand.) The taking of Barcelona is not yet contradicted from France, the last letters from Turin left the Duke of Savoy in good heart. If he holds out this winter, 'tis more than was expected some days since.

1705, September 27. Albemarle Street.—[Anthony Hammond] to [Thomas Coke].

I have been in the country. The inclosed came to me last night: I beg of you to return it. Mr. St. Johns has had a fever: I called today: they told me he was better, but he saw no company. I told Mr. Br. that Mr. H———y solicited earnestly for Mr. Sm——h, and attributed the coming in of the Tories to his influence. You see Mr. Br. his opinion upon that matter. I am afraid the choice of the Speaker will be a greater struggle than was apprehended. Lord Windsor declares against Mr. Sm——h: and I hear today Mr. George Clarke will quit his place, some say that he may be free in his vote upon that question, but I have not any certain grounds that this is the motive. We give credit in the City to the news of yesterday's mail from Lisbon, and that Barcelona is taken. I make no doubt but it will be ours, though perhaps this is a little too early account of it. Garth and I have met to condole upon the late matches. He has been employed to speak to Lady Peterborough for my Lord Mordaunt, who is terribly afraid of her upon this small mistake he has made. That the City may not be out of fashion in these follies, Mrs. Freeman, my Lord Delaware's mother-in-law, has married her postman.

1705, September 28. Camp at Herentals.—[Copy of a despatch.]

The troops that were detached for levelling the Lines having finished their work, and joined their respective regiments, the army commanded by his Grace the Duke of Marlborough and that of the States under the command of Monsr. d'Auverquerc decamped this morning from Arschot and came to this Camp; the right being at Grobbendonck and the left at Oevel. The enemy marched at the same time within their lines, and have extended their left towards Lier. A regiment of dragoons and a battalion of foot were this day sent from the army to reinforce the garrison of Diest, and to put it in a posture of defence.

(In another hand.) Our news from Catalonia holds hitherto very good; the last letter from France advising that the whole had declared for King Charles the 3rd, except Barcelona, and there the burghers had taken arms to compel the garrison to surrender.

(1705), September 29.—Mrs. St. John to Thomas Coke.

Mr. St. John not being able to write himself, I am to return you his thanks for your kind concern for him. He has been ill of a fever, but now begins to mend pretty fast: and will I hope be able some time next week to go into the country in order to recover such a stock of health as may carry him through the winter. He supposes you very busy among your country friends, and in your garden, and that you will hardly be in town till his return from Bucklebury, which will be about the 20th of October. I shall conclude by assuring you that I am your humble servant Fr. St. John.

(1705), September 30. Christchurch, Oxford.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

I beg leave to present my most humble thanks for the favour of yours last. You will have your best friend and his lady to bear you company, and I may then challenge any of [my] profession to shew such an apartment. I suppose you have heard that we have been afraid of a greater misfortune in that family than that which lately happened. Mr. St. John himself was taken ill at London. His fever lasted about eight days: I bless God it is over, and he is now returning to Bucklebury for some fresh air. I believe you have now thoughts of returning to town. I am afraid you will find very stormy weather there this winter. This country is in the utmost rage. Next week a new race is to be set up in Port Mead, near Oxon, in opposition to that at Woodstock, and some design to continue it for the future on the very same day. I see no possibility of reconciling the differences here.

1705, October 4. Ashborne.—John Beresford to Thomas Coke.

My good friend Michael Burton gives me the opportunity to join my request to his for your interest and friendship in the case of Knaresborough which will be a very great obligation upon us both. . . . I could wish to know the terms of your Annuity Bill, that is now in the House. It may afford some encouragement in the provision for younger children.

1705, October 6. Albemarle Street.—[Anthony Hammond] to [Thomas Coke].

The favour of yours of the 29th of September found me at Milton in Bucks, at Mr. Wotton's house, a relation and friend of mine. And now I happen to name him, give me leave to desire you to read the last edition of his Reflections upon Ancient and Modern Learning. I believe it will entertain you agreeably enough, and I would have so good a friend as you acquainted with a book that, by Mr. Wotton's consent, I have some interest in. The inclosed I had this morning from Captain Dolman of the Lyme. Scarce will Barcelona compensate for the loss of the Prince of Hesse. Please to direct your letters to me at the Navy Office. As I have been writing, the newspaper I have sent was cried about the street. This day my Lord Keeper surrendered the seals to Sir C. Hedges, who brought a warrant from Her Majesty to receive the same. 'Tis said Mr. Cowper succeeds.

1705, October 9. North End.—G. Granville to [Thomas Coke].

After having endured so much mortification of late upon the account of my friend, it gave me a pleasure beyond expression to hear of your health. Harry St. John has indeed been in a great deal of danger, but I suppose by this time has himself given you an account of his recovery. He is now at Bucklebury, from whence he writes me word he gathers strength every day, and is preparing to encounter us in full

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strength and vigour about the sitting of Parliament. I have hardly seen London since we parted, and shall have little desire, or temptation to see it till I hear you are there. I could be very well contented to pass the winter out of the hearing of your politics. The pleasure of being with you and two or three more of our friends can only atone for the burthen of so much disagreeable jangling as I foresee. Would to God that you would make haste to town, that I might not be at leisure to indulge myself in a way of thinking that makes me quite good for nothing. All at Northend are entirely at your devotion. I am from the very bottom of my soul, my dear Thomas, yours most faithfully for ever.

1705, November 7.—Sir Edward Coke to Thomas Coke at the Honble. House of Commons in Westminster.

I heartily thank you for the care you are pleased to take about what I made my request to you, and the hopes you give me still of effecting it. The opposition that you may meet with from a certain lord will then require a timely application to persons of the greatest interest at Court. I am much obliged to you for your letters. I wish the consequence of this Sessions of Parliament may be a safe and honourable peace, and then an union will follow at home. Godfry Burton mentioned in the list of three is, I presume, a mistake, for there is no Godfry Burton of an estate in this county that I know of. I believe it was intended for Francis Burton of Weston, who hath a good estate in land, and rich in monies.

1705, November 13. Gurcum [Gorkum].—Thomas Beresford to Thomas Cooke, Member of Parliament, in St. James's Place.

I desire you to excuse my delay in not writing, for I thought we should have had action after passing the lines: but the Dutch have frustrated the designs of the Duke, or otherwise we had been masters of all Flanders. All wish that the Duke may accomplish his designs in Vienna in making peace with the malcontents. I have had but indifferent usage in the regiment, for I was posted lieutenant the 8th of August, and received pay from that time, and did duty in the regiment, but the ensigns that were in the regiment before me, take post of me. Mr. Cardinall [Cardonell] promised to antedate my commission, which if he had done, I now had been one of the oldest lieutenants. I hope I have behaved myself in the regiment as a gentleman ought. My Colonell I believe will do me all the favour he can. If my Lord Duke will give me a brevet as Captain, if there be action as expected, I may get a company in this regiment, or in some of the old ones: which if you please, when you think convenient, you may request of his Grace: I doubt not but he will grant it.

1705, November 20. Suckley in Worcestershire.—Heigham Coke to Thomas Coke in the Exchequer Office in Westminster.

Having never as yet in my time had any relation in any considerable post at Court besides yourself, and being destitute of friends at this time, I now presume upon you to beg a small request at your hands, that you'll use your interest with the Queen, or some of the Privy Council to keep me off from being High Sheriff for the county of Worcester, my name being first in the paper of Sheriffs in the Exchequer. There being a Baronet of 4,000*l.* per annum next in the paper, who is much better qualified for that office; and I having but a small estate, and my wife being dead but some months ago, my house this year being the house of mourning, I hope I may be excused. Pray, cousin, do what you can for me with some of the lords of your acquaintance, or some of

the great people at Court, and you'll infinite oblige him who is, sir, your most affectionate kinsman and faithful humble servant to command. If you please to favour me with a line or two, direct for me, to be left at the post house in Worcester.

1705, November 28. Ilam.—G. Prendcourt to Thomas Coke, at his house in Park Place, St. James's Street, London.

Never in my lifetime had I such a task as Mr. Festin's tunes did give me, for they being set for a hautbois, I was obliged to transpose 'em for the most part, and at last I did overcome the difficulty. They'll be finished within three weeks, and perhaps sooner. It is the question now, if you'll have them transcribed into books, or in loose papers; and when they are done, if I shall send them to London or leave 'em at Melbourn. I have a great desire to know from you, sir, whether the Sonatas are liked, and if the Cascada and the rest are pleased. If so, I have added more things to them, and composed two new sets to them; so that they'll make together a number which will fill a book almost. And if you think it worth the while, I'll write 'em out and send 'em to you, for to be writ out fairly. I shall stay at Captain Port's till Wednesday next. My humble respects, if you please, to the ladies and your brother.

1705, December 5. Bramcoat.—Sir R. Burdet, Bart., to Thomas Coke, at the House of Commons, Westminster.

. . . We in these parts have so melancholy a prospect of being drained of all our money by the extraordinary taxes that fall upon us, that I am persuaded it will be difficult for my neighbours to pay them for this year. We have meat and drink sufficient, but we can receive but little money, and consequently we cannot pay much. This is the melancholy condition we are in and amongst others your servant.

1705, December 18. Derby.—John Lowe to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, in or near Westminster, London.

Had I not been importuned by some of my acquaintance, your particular friends when the elections were for this county, I should not have given you this trouble: and truly I think the request very reasonable. 'Tis only that you'll use your best interest with some of your chief friends that an Act of Grace, or Free Pardon may be passed this Session; because I have not heard if this Queen ever passed one yet, which has been usually done by other Princes. This would infinitely oblige several persons to my knowledge. Direct your letter to me to be left at the post house in Derby.

1705, December 20. Bosch.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I was in hopes to have kissed your hands at London before this time, but Colonel de Sibourg having done me the honour to have me here to command the regiment (a thing as little my inclination as my interest) has debarred me of it. We want as many recruits as last year, which we should never have been able to have got through, without the extraordinary charity of your House, which we hear (in general) has been very ample to us: but nobody has been so kind as to let me know the particulars yet. We have now the pleasure to fancy the distemper is over amongst our horses, very few having died within this three weeks, and those brought it with them out of camp. Pray God send we don't go into Germany to fetch it again. I cannot forbear giving you an account that Mr. Sibourg has so far disobliged my Lord Duke of Marlborough, that he will hardly speak to him or look at him. If I could I

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do not think it proper here to tell you how this has happened. I am very sorry for it for my own sake, and the regiment; and was very unwilling to mention anything of it here, till I considered it was necessary you should know it, to avoid giving into something too readily that spleen may dictate.

1705, December 26. (Derby.)—F. Turner to Thomas Coke, a Member of the Honble. House of Commons, at his house in St. James's Place, Westminster.

I received yours by the last post wherein you are pleased to mention an objection that somebody has made that I have never a convenient dining room above stairs. The truth is my Lady Shore had never a dining room below stairs, and so was forced to make use of a chamber, of necessity, which I shall not be obliged to do: and everybody knows a dining room below stairs is more convenient. And my Lady Shore has viewed my house and owns that mine is more convenient than hers ever were, and is much my friend, and would serve me in anything she can, and resolves not to lodge the Judges: else I would not have interceded for it. I am sure, whoever he is that makes the objection is my enemy and can assign no reason in the world for his objection. My rooms are larger and better in every respect than my Lady Shore's, which my Lady doth and will own. But I believe it's Mr. Dodson makes this objection because he would not have the Judges lodge at the same place where he is: but he is mistaken, for if occasion require, I can have a dining room above stairs. But I am sure they will be well pleased with that below.

1705–6, January 21.—Richard Hoare to Thomas Coke.

The writings of your estate that is in mortgage to me having been examined by several lawyers, on behalf of gentlemen that have promised to lend you a further sum of money, and all of them in conclusion refusing to accept of the security, gives me just reason to believe there is a defect in it. . . . In your letter of 28th December you promised to pay the money on Wednesday following: and being disappointed so often occasions me to think that if it should please God to take away your life I may be put to a great deal of trouble and charges. Therefore I am advised to have recourse to the judgment you gave me so soon as privilege will permit. Sir, I having a great respect for you, makes me give you this timely notice. I know you have friends that can supply you with this money, therefore let me desire you to make use of them.

1705–6, February 2. (Derby.)—W. Turner to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

Inclosed is a letter from my Lady Shore to my Lord Chief Justice Trevor on my behalf, which I thought convenient to send unsealed that you might see it before it was delivered. I am infinitely obliged to you for your last letter. Mrs. Wilmott hath taken my Lady Every's house: but the sheriff, to serve a turn this Assizes, would lodge the Judges in two of the little houses, that are small apartments from that house, which have no manner of conveniencies, either for cellar, dining, or lodging, merely to do me a prejudice. The under sheriff is a young man, whose name is Heanes of Ashbourne: but he will not be in London before the end of next week, and he must then wait upon the Lord Chief Justice to give him a Calendar of the prisoners to be tried. After you have read my Lady Shore's letter, be pleased to seal it up and let some of your servants carry it to my Lord.

1705–6, February 11. Bramcoate.—Sir R. Burdet, Bart., to Thomas Coke at the House of Commons, Westminster. COKE 88

. . . Your sisters remembering me I took very kindly, but am incapable of expressing the respect I have for them. Most of our country are concerned to observe the Parliament are now rising without doing anything that can be pretended either to their ease or advantage. Money may be given: where the advantage will be I cannot foresee. The case of the people of England looketh unfortunately in the opinion of our country and also of your servant.

1705–6, March 15. Lindsey House, Westminster.—("Parson") David Thomas to the Honble. Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place.

I humbly beg leave to trouble your Honour this once (the last time) more. I know very well it is the way of all these fine gentlemen that belong to the Courts of Princes never to deny to anyone anything that is asked of 'em: so that one cannot know whether one's request is agreeable to them or not from their answers, which are all the same in every case. But when any gentleman unmolested, unasked, unsought to, shall of his own accord offer to serve an old acquaintance, then one is apt to believe there may be dependence on such persons, let the manner of the place to which they belong be never so refined, so peculiar and delicate. Accordingly, sir, my Lord Abingdon sent me last year to thank your Honour for offering so graciously of your own accord to speak to Mr. Nicholas in my behalf; and he again sent me back to tell your Honour you had it in your power to show kindness directly and altogether from yourself to Mr. St. Johns, concerning the new raised regiments. Your Honour remembers that you promised me the utmost. You know very well, sir, how it was performed. Notwithstanding this rejection, I did presume to wait upon you again this year, upon the occasion of a vacancy in Colonel Churchill's regiment of Marines. You know, sir, you promised to act in my concerns forthwith, and to send me word how it went. I had more early notice of the vacancy than anyone; and if your Honour had early applied, I could not well have failed of success: or if you had early denied me (which had been the next greatest kindness) then I could have applied elsewhere, and possibly it might not have wanted success. But I never heard one word from you from that time to this hour. I humbly beg leave to signify two things to your Honour, and that will be all. This place being a thing consistent with my fellowship, and in the nature of it almost a sinecure, it was the thing of the world which I did desire, and had set my heart upon: and it was as much to so mean a man as I am, and to one in my poor circumstances, as your Honour's great place in the Exchequer is to you, and consequently the disappointment not a little. And that therefore, secondly, your Honour has been the occasion of (so far) the undoing of sir your most humble servant.

1705–6, March 18. Derby.—Thomas Bott, Mayor, to Thomas Coke, Member of the Honble. House of Commons, at his house at St. James Place, London.

I had the honour as well as the felicity to receive your worship's most kind and obliging letter. This comes to acquaint your Honour that the troops did remove from Derby on Saturday morning last; but it's the common discourse that they are to return to us this next Thursday: which if it lies in your Honour's power (as it's verily believed) I would in the name of my neighbours the Innkeepers (who is all the losers by them, as I believe) humbly crave the favour at your hands that, if they are to return to us, for their speedy removal from Derby. For without

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any flattery I write it, that the poorer sort of the inn, or the house, keepers are almost ruined by them: and having the good assurance from your Honour's letter, of doing all in your power to serve the town, I do not in the least doubt thereof, but fully rely thereon. Pray, honoured sir, pardon my prolixity.

1706, March 27. (Kings Newton).—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

Now the Parliament is over, I make bold to acquaint you that I do suspect you go on at much higher rates and prices than formerly: and I suspect they go on heedless. 'Tis you that must be the paymaster, and therefore I very much desire that you would see to all the bargains. The rates at London Bridge &c. will not do in our country. You will certainly think me very impertinent to concern myself in your affairs. I have no other way to be grateful for your repeated obligations, than to shew a zeal for your good and welfare. Yesterday Mr. John Burdett entered the marriage list at Griesely [Gresley] Church. Pray my most humble service to your honourable neighbours of Calke.

1706, April 5. Derby.—John Beresford, Henry Gilbert, Michael Burton to Thomas Coke, in St. James's Place, London.

About six or seven years ago one John Tatum was impressed for a soldier in the Earl of Orrery's regiment, and turned over to Lieut. Hixall. The case is thus. Tatum perhaps had formerly been guilty of sometimes killing a hare, which had given some umbrage to a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Wirksworth: but at the time of his impressing was reformed, and actually a hired servant to one Mr. Hutchinson, one of the eminentest lead dealers in our County. The man was very diligent and absolutely necessary to his master. The matter was so managed that the persons who ordered him to be taken up did not think it convenient to bring him before the Justices of Wirksworth Hundred, but to those of another Hundred, viz. Morleston, Sir Charles Pye, Mr. Lowe and Mr. Cotchett, so that his master and other people had not an opportunity to show that he was not within the meaning of the Act. Now this man is not only a great loss to his Mr. Hutchinson, but also to us who have subscribed this letter to you; being engaged in the drawing of some lead works of great consequence which Tatum formerly worked at, and by whose direction we can almost only depend upon to succeed. Our suit to you is that you will make application to the Duke of Ormond for this man's discharge, he being now in the Earl of Orrery's regiment in garrison in Ireland. Captain Trott will take care of the order of discharge for us.

1706, May 10. Ashborne.—John Beresford and Michael Burton to Thomas Coke.

We received your kind letter relating to John Tateham's discharge, who is a labourer so useful and wanting amongst the miners, especially the sough masters (in which art he excels) that we were obliged on their behalf to solicit earnestly for him again; and are very thankful for your intercession. We remain easy and secure that you will find out the most fitting season and methods to bring our Yorkshire Petition to effect. We have had a rumour of late that my Lord Stamford was likely to be restored in the Duchy: how far that might affect this matter, or other dangers arise in the way, we must wholly submit to your clearer judgment.

1706, May 27. Christ Church, Oxford.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

. . . You may now have leisure to finish your fine gardens, and when they are done you may sit in security under your own vines and figtrees. I believe you have work cut out for some years. When your gardens are to your mind, you will not long endure the eyesore of your old house. I suppose this fine seat is designed only to please yourself, for as to any design you may have on any lady there can be need of nothing but your own person and address. I long to see your picture up in my lodgings: the copy of an original that is so powerful may have too its influence, and tempt some fair one to a place where I can never hope to see them without so strong a charm. The ladies tell me you are still very hard upon me. I hope in this time of joy, you are in good humour at least, if not in charity (that indeed is a Christian duty) and that I may desire an Act of Oblivion for no transgressions that I know of. I hope I may prevail on the good ladies of Bucklebury to speak to you in my behalf. I would persuade myself that you would not deny their intercession.

1706, June 2. Christ Church, Oxford.—W. Stratford to Thomas Coke.

I hope the books are safe. I did not expect them by any merchant ship: they will come I believe with my friend in the pacquet boat. And if he should be carried into Dunkirk, if it continue in the French hands, I believe he will have interest enough to secure this cargo. If my Lord Marlborough should take Dunkirk, when they are there, I hope you will claim what belongs to you. Don't think, Sir, that I won't see Melburn before I am Bishop of Durham. If I should take your hint, you might be pretty sure of never being troubled with me: but I hope to say grace to you many a time there, before I shall bless you in it. If you will but give me security that I shall continue here, I will sign a release of my further expectations. You have voted us safe. As you are men of honour, I hope you will think yourselves obliged to make good your own vote: it will be your interest too to do it. Should I be dislodged hence, I must come amongst my old masters, and be quartered upon you by turns. Sir, I dare meet you at Bucklebury, and I will most certainly wait upon you when I hear you are there. I hope too you will be tempted to see Blenheim this summer. If you are I am sure you must bait at Christ Church. I will do what I can to keep the College cool in this warm weather, that the honour I desire may not be to your prejudice elsewhere.

(1706), June 2. Camp at Meerlebeck near Ghent.—Captain Richard Pope to Thomas Coke.

I should have given you sooner an account of our famous battle at Ramelie, near Tirlemont, if I had not been detached with a party of a thousand horse and two thousand grenadiers to secure a passage on the Scheldt, commanded by Duke Wurtemberg: but the enemy were so kind to abandon it as well as the town of Ghent. Major-General Rosse is sent with a body of horse and dragoons to summon Bruges yesterday, which I believe will surrender immediately, the French having left no garrison in it. We talk of forming the siege of Oudinarde, and hope to be able to undertake Ostend and Newport before the enemy is reinforced sufficient to make head against us. The confusion is still as great in their army as can be imagined. The common people of the Low Countries seem very much rejoiced at the change: the priests and gentry but very reserved. The French court bullies pretend to reinforce

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their army so as to drive us out of the country: where they will find regular troops enough I cannot think. The Walloons and Spaniards would desert them, if they could: and the Bavarians are quite tired with braving French insolence, and would do the same if they knew where to go. They left the town of Ghent without ever giving directions to the magistrates what to do: and the whole management of their affairs seems to be a scene of infatuation. On the other side, every one that is not prejudiced must allow my Lord Duke acted the part of a very great general in making a feint upon the right, which obliged them to reinforce their left with twenty squadrons, and he at the same time drew all his horse, except twenty-seven squadrons, from his right to the left, and attacked their right with near a hundred squadrons. They were superior to us in number of battalions and squadrons, but I believe their's not so strong. We pass the Scheldt tomorrow.

1706, June 14. N.S. Camp at Arseelf (?)—J. Brydges to Thomas Coke.

Yours of the 24th May came safe to my hands, whilst I was at Antwerp to wait on my Lord Duke in his return from the Hague. I am very much obliged to you for your kind congratulation in it, and the satisfaction you are pleased to express at my having received no harm, is such a mark of friendship that I shall endeavour to deserve it as long as I live. My Lord Duke was received at Antwerp in the most solemn manner, and with the highest marks of respect they could possibly shew him, having for this end searched their records: and whatever was done upon the like occasion to any sovereign Prince, they did so to his Grace. There was one piece of ceremony which was odd enough—viz. the magistracy of the town marching before him with lighted flambeaux (though in the middle of the day) which is looked upon as the greatest mark of honour they can shew, and which they seldom, or ever, have bestowed upon their Dukes of Brabant. My Lord hath ordered a detachment of five English regiments, viz. Temple's, Stringer's, Lalo's, Farinton's, and Mackartney's, and Mr. Overkirk marcheth with 25 battalions of the Dutch to invest Ostend tomorrow. They will be joined by those Mr. Ross hath with him about Bruges, and the rest of the army will march in two or three days after them. My Lord Duke received your letter to him very kindly, and intends to thank you himself for it.

1706, June $\frac{13}{24}$. Ronsselaer.—Duke of Marlborough to Thomas Coke, M.P.

I should be ashamed of acknowledging so late your kind congratulations on our happy success here, if I did not asure myself that your friendship, which I have experienced on so many other occasions, will now excuse me, that I have by a constant hurry of business been hindered from thanking you sooner for your kind expressions and good wishes. I dare not defer it any longer for fear of falling under the suspicion of being wanting to the true estime wherewith I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

1706, June 22. Bretby.—Earl of Chesterfield to Thomas Coke, M.P., at St. James's Place.

. . . Since my coming down I have been free from the gout, but yet for the most part indisposed as I use to be: and now my daughter is gone from me I am become a perfect hermit, for nobody can live a more solitary life. And since you are pleased to mention my gardens, I will tell you that I was never less pleased with them, for my orange trees are almost spoiled, as having neither fruit nor blossoms, nor

hardly any leaves: and the ponds of water I made for my waterworks have lost all their water. These things might be counted disasters to a person who sets up his rest in the country, as much as greater matters to a person who is in the affairs and bustle of the world. But in my opinion there is so little of that which men call happiness to be found anywhere, that all conditions are almost alike, and I am sure must have the same ending. The last night my son came to me from Scarborough, and is so extremely deaf that I could not but be sorry as well as pleased to see him. I hope that neither the public nor your private affairs will detain you long in town, for there is great want of your directions at Melborne, and your company is always desired by your most affectionate father.

1706, July 15. Valencia.—George Keightley to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Square, London.

Since fate hath ordered our long stay in these parts, I only bless myself with the thought of being so happy as to see one, who I have so many obligations to return to; which I hope, since God has protected me hitherto. There is no great danger, but my wishes will come to effect. My design was to give you a small account of the siege of Barcelona, as soon as the French had raised it: but my Lord Peterborough, not knowing the motion of the enemy, commanded Colonel Southwell's regiment to march forthwith to Lerida a strong garrison upon the frontiers of Catalonia, to stay there till further orders. Now my Lord has sent an order for our regiment to march to this place. But our stay here, I believe, will be very short, for all Catalonia has declared, all Valencia and Alicant, and most of the other parts of Spain. My Lord Galway at this time and his army is encamped half a league of this side of Madrid: and the gentlemen of that place has sent to King Charles to make all the haste he possibly can. When the French marched from Barcelona they was obliged to leave 107 pieces of brass cannon, 5,000 barrels of powder, flour for their whole army to serve a fortnight, 10,000 pair of shoes, besides arms and a great number of clothes. For their men, they lost, killed and wounded, 8,000 of their best men. I have kept a journal of our affairs, since our first arrival in Spain, but you have had it from better hands, and I will trouble you no more. Colonel Southwell gives his service to you, and told me that if I had occasion for anything, you would not let me want it: but I have received so many favours of that kind from you, that honour obliges me to be silent. Colonel Vachell, Lieut. Colonel to Colonel Southwell's regiment, and a very good friend of mine, and who has a great respect for you, has promised to deliver this letter.

(1706), August 26. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke (in London).

Hearing you was gone to Mr. St. John's, I deferred writing. All your friends are ready to excuse the matter of writing if you would come in person, which is still the burden of the song with them. My Lady Harpur tells them you have stayed in expectation of an address, and it would make you smile to see how much they are put to it whether to take her in jest or earnest. My lady this day sets forward towards the Bath, which I hope she will find the good effects of. We dined on Saturday last at Knolehills to meet Lady Catherine and Mr. Clarke, who are both very well: my Lord Chesterfield threatens the keeping them at Bretby till he goes to town. I heard lately from Wing that Miss is very well. Your little gentlewoman here is very much improved with sucking asses milk, and fresh air. But we are all in danger

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by the temptation of your fruit, which we have in much greater abundance than we can dispense with ourselves; and therefore I have disposed of some to those of your neighbours that have no walls of their own. Some peaches of the same trees that you despised last year are excellent. Nectarines are also very excellently good this year; and there has been a few figs in great perfection. I hope to preserve half a dozen hanging on the tree for your tasting if you keep your word with us. Your gardener desired I would give you a description of the size and goodness of Sir Charles Owsley's plum, which was stark nought: it was a very wet time when it ripened which is all I can say in its behalf. But there is some peaches, which Mr. More says came from Brompton Park, which deserve commendation. Indeed your gardens are more than pleasant. And there is the plantation of elm arbor, which I am sure will surprise you by its growth. The greens in general are in a very thriving way this year, and with very little pains of watering. I suppose Mr. Cooke has been with you, and therefore I might have spared my account; but you know my infirmity of scribbling. I must add the reminding you of the poverty of your wine cellar. Your ale and cider have both been in such perfection that upon choice we have made the less use of wine ourselves: but some red wine must have been spent, and I have been forced sometimes to make use of your sack for our ladies. We have lived pretty retired at home this last week, many of our neighbours having entertained themselves at the horse race; and some are this week going to the Mansfield race. Sir George Parker won the first plate, and my Lord Granby won the last day's race. My sister is your servant, and your daughter gives her duty, and talks as much of your coming as the best of them.

1706, September 17.—E. C. [Sir Edward Coke] to Thomas Coke, in St. James's Place.

I received the favour of your letter with the most welcome news of the entire defeat of the French army in Italy. There remains nothing more than that the news from Spain should come confirmed to make this the most glorious campaign that ever was. These surprising victories may let the grand Louis see that the blood royal of France running in the veins of the Dukes of Orleans and Vendome does not form the hero wiser and braver, nor make him a greater favourite of heaven: and methinks the high compliments made to these gentlemen in their patents for Generals of the two Armies does not now sit upon them, nor their royal master, with so graceful an air. I am afraid we shall not have the honour of your company this year in the country, the winter season approaching: but I do not doubt but that so much as the charms of love, music and books can make one happy, you have not been less so this summer: and pray should I not have some reason for this belief, if I had been with you sometimes in your rural retirement. Sir, I have a request to make to you that you would please to apply yourself to Mr. Baron Price (who came our circuit) that he would give order to have my name left out of the list that is to be given to my Lord Keeper at this Michaelmas. I waited on Mr. Baron at Derby and dined with him, so if you please you may give him my service. I am to thank you for your favour of franking my letters.

1706, October 30. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

Mr. Fisher was speaking something to me about selling Gorsty Leys, as if there was upwards of 2,000*l.* in it. If so, 'tis my judgment to

divide it into four haggs, and sell one hagg first, and so every year one, till all is sold. And I think that is as much as will be sold well in any one year. It will in four years be sold as much dearer as will answer more than the interest of the money. Your underwood must be cut up by Christmas of so much as you sell the timber off. You know Robert Littill went on board the *Hampton Court* with Sir John Leake. I perceive Sir John is come home on board the *St. George*. Pray enquire after him, because this spring, if all be well, entitles him to a midshipman, or higher.

1706, November 6. (Kings Newton.)—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I was to see your ruins at the bridge. I think it must be till the spring, and then made another way and cheaper. If Mr. Fisher paid Jonathan for valuing [Gorsty Leys] as I suppose he did, the marking money will come to a great sum at 12*d.* per pound. So I think he should bargain with Jonathan about that for your advantage, because in the whole sale, it will come to 100*l.*, and better. I only give you a hint. Those that have the marking money must stand to the collecting the wood money, and hazard.

1706, December 2.—John Harpur to [Thomas Coke].

I am so very much solicited by Leonard Bacon's friends to write to you to make interest to save his life, that I could not avoid giving you this trouble. He was committed to Newgate last Tuesday for robbing a gentleman of a gold watch, as I am told. I know nothing more of his case, but hear he is in danger of losing his life. His friends are very numerous and of good degree in Derby: and if you will please to use your interest to save him, you will much oblige them as well as, Sir, your affectionate and humble servant.

1706, December 2.—Richard Husband to [Thomas Coke].

I was at Whitehall today, and got from the Signet Office a copy of the Privy Seal empowering Queen Catherine's Trustees to make a lease in reversion to Prowse for 40 years after the determination of Freeman's lease. But want the Sign Manual of King Charles 2, empowering his Queen's Trustees to make a lease of the premises to Ralph Freeman for 31 years after the expiration of 7 years granted to Col. Vernon. I am told the sign manual remains in the Paper Office at Whitehall, and that Mr. La Faye (it is the person who writes the Gazettes) has the custody of those papers. If the paper is there, you will yourself readily get a copy.

1706, December 23.—Michael Burton to [Thomas Coke].

. . . I am very sensible of the obstructions my Knaresborough affair has met with, notwithstanding your kind and repeated endeavours to serve me in it: and have therefore set my head to help that cripple over the stile; and if possible acquire some further premium for the services I shall propose. . . . I have never thought it criminal, with an unwearied diligence to follow after such measures as might honestly save me of the weight, which like that of original evil still depresses and sinks a man, in spite of all endeavour without the influential aid of a kind and regenerative friend, to set him upon a calm basis, with which 'tis too often true, Probitas laudatur et alget. Sir, ever since I had the honour to be known and favoured by you, I have upon all events met with that candour and kindness from you, which has for ever endeared me to you by the greatest personal affection, as

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well as respect and esteem in your public capacity. . . . This Sir has been the great motive, why I have been from time to time so very importunate with you in my former affairs, as I hope it will prevail with you to lay on a helping finger, and not see one so faithful to you suffer: but because it would be inexcusable to be wanting to myself by leaving any stone unturned that may accomplish my moderate desires, I have drawn up a scheme (which shall be produced when you command it) whereby I propose and will undeniably demonstrate that I can raise the Queen for ever an annual revenue of 25,707*l.* the raising whereof shall no ways prejudice or inconvenience the subject, but on the contrary will bring in and circulate amongst the public an annual income of 38,561*l.*: so that the whole to the Queen and Country will amount per annum to 64,268*l.* . . . Sir I beg you'll not slight this proposal as a shallow superficial thought, for I have laboured to bring it to perfection with a great deal of diligence. It has had the approbation (so far as it was proper for me to communicate it) of the most prudent and judicious of my country friends: the whole country will unanimously run in with it: and if it be completed will be for your interest on such a basis in your own country, that it will not be in the power of malice or calumny to oppose you. And as to my own particular, I desire no other reward for my service, but what shall be very moderate, and to be paid me out of that revenue I propose to raise, if my former affair must be denied me. . . . If I could obtain the Attorney General's place of the Duchy of Lancaster, I durst undertake in a few years time to double the revenue of that Duchy, for I have made the matter a great part of my study, and I know that revenue as to its management and mismanagement as well as any man whatsoever. I beg you will let me hear from you, because that will convince me that what I offer has some weight with you.

1706, Christmas Day.—Walter Burdett to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London. Free.

I think it the greatest civility to say the least to one in your post. Therefore only wish you a merry Christmas, and cry out first by complaining that you have not given me joy of my new honour of being chaplain to the Queen's Vice Chamberlain, and told me how I might entitle you upon a letter.

(1706), December 26.—John Beresford to Thomas Coke.

I am now troublesome to you on behalf of my brother Arderne, to beg your countenance to his Bill that lies before you. It was his father's misfortune to suppose he could do more than he took care to do, and so left my sister and three brothers unprovided for, besides sureties for considerable debts, amongst whom is your friend, the scribe. Now my brother Arderne is generously desirous to provide for all these occasions, and we do entirely confide in what he proposes. He has met with no difficulty of assent from anybody, but his father's friend and his own blood, Sir John Crewe, and all upon distaste about the Cheshire election. Sir John would have the glory in Cheshire of securing by his assent the payment of Sir John Arderne's debts and in a short limited time. Now my brother Arderne (who does as piously and worthily intend it as any man in England) would have the thanks of it, and reasonable time to take his best chapman, and not sell to disadvantage, all which we that are concerned do readily and reasonably allow. I take the freedom to tell you the whole story. I once mentioned to you the putting my cousin Henry Beresford of Doveridge amongst the Commissioners for Land tax. He is a very well principled

honest gentleman, and hath a good estate among us: he is called to the bar, but loves a quiet life. Sir John Crewe is consenting at last. I only mentioned the thing to show how the malevolence of a party can affect and sour a man's temper. The Bill comes before the Committee on the 30th instant.

1706, December 31.—J. Pagett to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Place.

This comes to intreat you to send me word by the bearer whether there will be a song performed before the Queen tomorrow, and if so, where and at what time of the day? Your information in this matter will oblige your very humble servant.

1706 (probably).—Thomas Coke, M.P., to the Duke of Marlborough.

My Lord I durst not trouble your Grace with a letter till you had some recess from the fatigues you had undergone [in] your long campaigne. But now I presume to hope a letter may not be troublesome, and that I may venture to congratulate your safe arrivall at the Hague, believing this will find your Grace arrived there from the army: in which every year you render them more oblidged to you for a larger frontier. And I wish they were so much their own friends as to lett their arms be guided by your Grace's happy conduct. Their wishes would then be crowned with what their fears have hitherto deprived them of, and wee here in England should have the pleasure of seeing Flanders and Brabant not such secure barriers to the French as they have hitherto been imagined. . . . .

1706-7, January 3. Alfreton.—Row. Morewood to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, London—frank.

Sir I lately received a letter from the Speaker of the House of Commons, directed to me as High Sheriff of the County of Derby, the copy whereof I send you that you may be acquainted with the contents thereof.

(Copy of the Speaker's letter.)

1706, December 24. From the House of Commons.

Sir the House of Commons having taken notice of the absence of several of their members, I am commanded to acquaint you with it, that you may give immediate summons to all the members of this House, Knights, Citizens and Burgesses within your county to attend their service in Parliament on Tuesday the 14th day of January next. The House of Commons intending to proceed further with all severity against all such of their members as shall then neglect their attendance. And you are to give an account of the receipt of this, and of what you have done thereupon unto Sir your humble servant,

J. Smith, Speaker.

(1707), August 2. (Melbourne.) Elizabeth Coke to [Vice-Chamberlain Coke].

. . . I heartily wish you success in what occasions your stay. I received a letter last night from Wing, which I have inclosed, notwithstanding you told me your design of going, which I hope you have not been prevented. I pleased myself with believing that if you went to Wing you would meet Lady Catherine Clarke: I know she would be extremely glad, as well as yourself, with the unexpected meeting. Your daughter Betty is very well, and some degrees improved in unluckiness since you saw her. . . . I must not omit telling you how highly we have been favoured by the Curzon family, Sir Nathaniel

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himself, lady, sons and daughters all came about a fortnight since and dined with us: and since we all met again one day to dinner at Newton: and one evening Mr. John Curzon with cousin Burdett of Foremark came and supped with us, and he is extremely full of inquiry after his brother Coke's coming down. Mrs. Burdett has been most at Bramcote, so we have seen little of her; but my Lady Harpur is so obliging that we are very sociable neighbours. I don't know what to say of your gardens, but as I use to do, mighty pleasant and sweet, and as to the keeping, very few faults to be found, not but that when you come, you will find a great many things both in the gardens and out, that would be rectified by a master's eye over them. I was to see your ironwork, which is certainly very fine, and a great curiosity to see the manner of their doing of it. He says he shall now soon have finished it. The Great Pool stands very high of water, but the weeds are increased for it is almost entirely green over. I heard that there was a man came to the town, and offered to give five pounds for the flags and take them away himself. I own I thought five pounds not to be despised, especially to be eased of an inconvenience, and therefore, if you approve, I will inquire further into it. I am rich in beauties both of the great and small kind of hens, and pretty well for the number of Muscove ducks: but there is a great want of some tolerable convenience for both sorts. My Lady Harpur is set up for a hen housewife this year, my Lady Ferrers having given her a stock, and Mrs. Burdett also: but she has had such ill luck, she has begged a recruit from me. Yesterday was a race between my Lord Berkshire and cousin Robert Burdett upon Sinfelmore [Sinfin Moor] which drew most of the company together that are of this side the country. My cousin Burdett's horse won it two to one against him. And after this was over, a new match was made between Lord Berkshire, Lord Cullen, Mr. Warren, and Capt. that is at Derby, which Mr. Warren won. And the last, which I hear occasioned the most diversion, was a match between my Lady Harpur and cousin John Burdett, my Lady's little strawberry horse, and the mare of cousin John Burdett which you gave him: my Lady had the victory, by the fault of cousin Burdett's groom who got so far into the crowd he could not get out again. Dear brother, I fear I have quite tired you with my impertinence.

1707, September 11. London.—Sir John Stanley to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Pursuant to your directions I send enclosed a Warrant for the Knight Harbinger, or his deputy, to provide lodgings at Newmarket, which I desire you will give Mr. La Roche, when you have signed it. And a list of the Gentlemen Waiters that my Lord Chamberlain may appoint their months of waiting. . . The letters to the Green Cloth, and Board of Ordnance for the waggons, shall be ready when my Lord Chamberlain comes to town. I desire you will mark on the paper the alterations my Lord would have in the list of those that sit at the Gentlemen Waiters table, and send it to me, that there may be no mistake, and I will prepare a warrant upon it. I have sent to Mr. Bracy to go into waiting. I hope you will prevail with my Lord to defer his suspension, till his new regulations be out, and then to keep to it strictly.

1707, November 5. Carlton.—G. Palmer to the Honble. Thomas Cook, Esq., at the Lobby of the House of Commons.

The generality of the gentry have recommended me to the freeholders [of Leicestershire] to represent them in Parliament. I desire your approbation and interest.

1707, November 10.—Ralph Docksey to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke.

I hear I am one of the three nominated to be sheriff for this County [Derby] which much surprises me, being very unfit to bear such an office . . . my estate being at best worth but about 300*l.* a year, 200*l.* of it settled on my wife; and the other 100*l.* a year, there is a debt of 1,000*l.* owing to Sir Nathaniel Curzon, so that the bearing of that office will, at this time, be the undoing of me, I having a numerous family, my wife being big of the thirteenth. This is to desire the favour of your interest to get me off. . . . I have desired my good friend Captain John Beresford of Ashborne to write to you in my behalf.

(1707 probably), Saturday, 12 o'clock. James Craggs to Thomas Coke.

I am sorry I could not have your company today to Windsor: the Controller cannot delay it till tomorrow. I have sent you four tickets which I fancy you'll be willing to dispose of for the encouragement of so hopeful a beginner.

Inclosed. Three small playing cards, having on the back of each "June 26th The Amorous Widow or the Wanton Wife. The Box. For the Benefitt of Miss Mountfort and Miss Evans," and an impression of a Roman head in red sealing wax.

1708, March 25.—Richard Husband to the Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain to the Queen's Majesty, at his house in St. James's Place.

Being at a Coffee house this morning, I read the written votes, which seem to say that a message came from the Lords to the House of Commons, that all proceedings in law written in the French tongue should be void. How far such votes, or when reduced into a law, will affect Acts of Parliament, written in the French tongue, I must refer it to you to consider, the Act 3 Henry 5, being in French, recited in the Auditor's Report. I beg you would direct your servant to get the letter I sent you directed to my son into the Earl Rivers bag: and if your leisure will permit you, to write two lines to Colonel Hill or Lieut. Colonel Clayton, in favour of him.

1708, May 17.—De Matveof (?) [Muscovite Ambassador] to M. le Vice Chambellan.

Ayant beaucoup de confiance dans votre amitié, dont j'ai vu des marques, et vous suis obligé infiniment, je prends liberté de vous faire incommodité par ma presente au sujet de la maison qui m'est accordée gracieusement par Sa Majesté la Reine. Il vous est connu, Monsieur, qu'on l'a louée il y a deja sept semaines, pour m'en faire jouir la possession, mais j'etois bien surpris de l'avoir vu avant hier dans un êtat qui ne promet pas l'accomplissement des meubles, et la restauration de l'office a moins de quatre semaines encore, si on s'empressera si doucement qu'on a fait jusqu'à present. Le tapissier Bedfort dit que ce n'etoit pas ses affaires, et qu'il ne se méloit que des meubles, moyennant son contrât. Au contraire le Maitre d'Autel (hotel) de Madame Clergis (Clarges?) assure que le même tapissier etoit obligé de faire la restauration. . . . L'offre que dit tapissier m'a fait faire de lui resigner l'écurie en recompense de la restauration de l'office est un visible marque de son avidité, voulant que je disposasse si inconveniement de la bonté de la Reine, en lui laissant ce que j'aurai peutêtre besoin moi même à l'avenir pour mon equipage. C'est pourquoi, sachant bien qu'on peut remedier en tout ça par vos ordres, je vous prie amiablement et instamment de vouloir commander au dit tapissier qu'il fasse son devoir,

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et dépéche de mettre cette maison dans un êtat accomplie par des meubles et la restauration de l'office, en quittant son profit inconvenient, àfin que je puisse jouir de la grace de sa Majesté la Reine, dont je [suis] dépourvu si induement jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est. Et comme la justice de ma presente demande est tres claire, il ne me restera que de me recommander à la continuation de vôtre amitié, et de vous prier de me fournir les occasions pour vos services, que j'executerai avec autant de promptitude, que je suis avec d'estime et de la passion, Monsieur, votre tres humble et tres obéissant serviteur.

1708, June 5.—H. Boyle to Mr. Vice Chamberlain Coke.

I received the honour of your letter of the 31st of May, and according to your commands have laid before the Queen, and am to acquaint you that her Majesty has no objection to your visiting or paying any civility to Marechal Tallard.

1708, September 8.—Endorsed by Vice Chamberlain Coke "Colonel Sandys."

Waiting for Her Majesty coming out of Council, finding the Groom of the Privy Chamber not at the door, nor near it, and the Queen coming out, I ran to the Privy Chamber and called for the candle: then I went back again expecting it. Afterwards I saw his man coming into the room with the candle. The Queen being so nigh, I bad him bid his master bring in the candle. The Queen being come out of the Council Room, and the Vice Chamberlain looking about (as I suppose) for the candle, the Groom went on the back of the company, and gave the Vice Chamberlain a little candlestick off one of the stands; so my duty was done by the Groom, and I know not who did it. Which business of giving the candle was decided in the late Lord Chamberlain's time—the Gentleman Usher to give the candle to the Vice Chamberlain, and the Groom to give it to us—which has been done ever since, and was thought a credit to the Groom. Formerly telling the Groom of the neglect, he told me not anybody minded what I said, and that he valued not of a farthing what I said, and that he knew not whether it was his business to give me the candle, or no, and that he was to wait in the Privy Chamber. But that is when no other business is required, and this is all they do very nigh, besides seeing their man light the candles, which if not done in order the Gentleman Usher is answerable for it: if so, 'tis very hard to suffer this. This happened in the Privy Chamber the next day before two Gentlemen of the Family. I forgave one of them on the like occasion, at the desire of several Gentlemen then at dinner. I suppose this was the reason he told me I was always making disputes. I cannot have disputes but on these occasions with them; when the giving the candle was decided on a dispute. I suppose he told Mr. Harrison it was below his post, and that it was never done formerly: but we have obeyed ever since. I have reason to say this, for he told me the same thing.

(1708, probably), September 26. Bretby.—Lady Catherine Clark to Thomas Coke, M.P., at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I do esteem myself very happy, dear brother, in the continued marks of your kindness. . . . My father orders me to return you his humble thanks for your letter . . . We hope soon to see him out of his chamber, and then shall think of returning home, though my father is so much alone that he is pleased to tell us he cannot well be without us. We still live in hopes of seeing you in Derbyshire, but wherever you are, I am sure my best wishes will ever attend you. Sir Edward Littleton with one of his sons and my brother Stanhope are now here, which

makes me design taking that opportunity of waiting upon Mrs. Cokes tomorrow, for though I have lately been there I cannot too often have that satisfaction. We have not much news except of a late dispute between Lord Culling and Lady Bellamount, which occasioned the first to take his Lady from Swarson in a huff. But we hear there is like to be an accommodation through Mr. Harpur and Mr. Warren's endeavours. I suppose you hear of the confusion there has been at Derby about interest for elections. They say Sir Thomas Parker did entreat Lord James Cavendish (who was there) to make his exit, for that his presence was like to do more hurt than good, so that his Lordship took his advice and is gone. Mr. Clark is your humble servant, and I must say that I look upon the continuance of his friendship to you as a particular mark of his kindness to me, which I thank God he is in every respect ready to show, and convinces me upon all occasions that I am as happy as any lady can possibly be in the change of my condition . . . .

1708, September 28. Spithead.—Sir George Byng to Mr. Secretary Burchet.

Lieutenant Collier, who was this day tried at a Court Martial relating to the loss of the Thomas and Catherine smack, when he was lieutenant of the Severn and taken into France, has been twice taken and is now only on his parol. This case (if you please to inquire into it) will seem very hard with an officer of fortune, who has only the service to depend on. I would pray leave to recommend him to the favours of his Royal Highness's Council. I am entirely a stranger to him: but justice obliges me to recommend such officers as fall in my way, whose characters are so fair as this gentleman's seems to be.

[Indorsement by Vice Chamberlain Coke. "He has received but 13 "months pay during five years, by reason of his having been twice "taken and his last misfortune."]

1709, June 7.—W. Stratford to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

The inclosed list has the best editions of those books you were pleased to command me to enquire after. The Louvre edition of Tasso for beauty and the pleasure of reading is preferable to any other. The Genoa edition is most valued by the critics. In the other books the editions in Italy I think are most valued. I never met with any edition of the Filli de Sciro but that of Ferrara. The renewal of the war will prevent my having some so soon as I hoped for from France; but I shall write to Leers (?), when he completes my set of the Louvre editions, to send me a Louvre Tasso for you.

1709, July 12. Windsor Castle.—Duke of Somerset to the Rt. Honble. Mr. Coke, Vice Chamberlain.

Her Majesty hath commanded me to let you know that according to the Lord Chamberlain's warrant the Jewel Office hath provided two gold cups to be run for at Richmond and Black Hamilton; and that as the one is already ordered to be delivered to Mr. Darcy, the other is to be delivered to Mr. Marshall by your order to Mr. Charlton.

(1709 October 17, postmark.) (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. the Vice Chamberlain at his lodgings at the Palace at St. James, London.

I have been in daily expectation I might have the good occasion of writing to give you joy: but have the melancholy one of telling you we have lost our kind friend and neighbour, Mr. Hardinge, who died on Thursday evening. I was with him a very little time before he died. He desired very kindly and particularly to be remembered to you, and

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with great assurance how kind his intentions was always to you. He pleased himself with hopes he would have seen your happiness in your intended change, and shewed the greatest tenderness imaginable to your little ones, and said he thought if they had a mother, she could not but be kind to them. I had a great many instances of his friendship upon all occasions, with the greatest respect and honour that was possible. And at the last he put so great a trust in me as before me to tell his daughters he had left them to none but their brother, only that he required both him and them to be advised by me in all they did. I was with poor Mrs. Hardinges some nights in their extremity; I came home to-day to look after affairs at home, but design to return this evening to them, and stay till Monday that the funeral is over. He had settled all his affairs in the greatest order and exactness that could be, so that in this last illness he had nothing to do but compose himself for another world, which he did with so much resignation and patience under the greatest extremity, as spoke him the same worthy man he lived. He has left his daughters a thousand pounds a piece; his son a very clear and good estate besides. He had directed his son to give his sisters their table for one year, that they might not be scattered about of a sudden. Some other little legacies of mourning, and kind remembrances to particular friends, of which number he has made me one, is all the will of one, who I think can scarce be equalled in his loss to his friends and country. I acquainted my Lady Catherine Clarke with what you said about the jewels. Mr. Clarke is not willing to meddle with them: nor do I find my Lord Chesterfield will say anything in it: So I believe you will be obliged to continue them where they are.

1709, October 22. (Melbourne.) — Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Dear Brother I would not have omitted the first opportunity of giving you joy, had not my sister Fanshawe done it: and I am satisfied I need not make use of much expression in what you're so well assured as my best wishes to you and yours, particularly in what is so material to your chief happiness in this life; and I extremely rejoice that we have so just occasion to hope will prove so, as to give you all the satisfaction this world can afford. Your daughters both desire their humble duty may be accepted by yourself and their new mother, who they have great joy in the thoughts of, and are very full of great resolutions how good they will be, and I may answer for them as far as their years will allow. And that, dear brother, I may be no hindrance to the putting your affairs as soon as possible in the method you think most proper, I will again repeat my resolution of being of no further trouble in your family, after I have delivered up my little charge. This to any but between you and myself might appear the saying—no—before the being asked: but I have so long received such kindness from you as to convince me I might still receive more than would be reasonable for me to accept. You may be sure I have not determined myself to any place or method without asking your approbation. All I can say is, it cannot be more private (with credit) than will suit my inclinations as well as my little income. Our neighbours at Newton, in their trouble, rejoice with you, and particularly Mrs. Mary Hardinge desired I would, with her humble service to you and respects to your lady, wish you all the joy imaginable, and says she is sure as far as your good wishes can mitigate their affliction, they are sure of them. Indeed they are very much to be pitied, for few or none had such a father to lose. But he hath not omitted any necessary care for them, and they have a brother who appears to have that worth, as to make it up as far as possible to them,

and has in this time of extremity carried it with all the prudence and tenderness to them imaginable. He buried his father last Sunday in the evening in a very decent private manner in Peers Chapel in Melborn Church. There was about sixteen of his most particular friends of the neighbourhood, with the freeholders and his own tenants of this parish; who had all what was usual upon these occasions, but all with the least show or pageantry that could be, according to the desire of him that it was done for, who must always live in the hearts and memories of all that knew him. My cousin Burdett and his lady begin their journey to London on Monday next. Sir Robert Burdett has been much hurt by a fall from his horse, but is upon the recovery. I fear the length of this may prove unseasonable, but you know the infirmity of your most affectionate sister and servant. My cousin Walter Burdett is in great raptures of your mare, and has been very earnest ever since she came down that he might have the keeping her for you: you know you can't oblige him more, than by accepting his courtesy.

(1709), November 1. Windsor Park.—Duchess of Marlborough to Honble. Mrs. Coke.

As I was going into my coach att St. Albans I received the favour of your leter, dear Mrs. Coke, and as soon as I come out of it I give myself the pleasure of writing to you and asuring you I shall bee very glad that you will make use of anything, or everything, that is call'd mine att Kinsington. You have said a great deal of your obligations to me more than they deserve; for I think there is no great matter in recommending a very agreeable young woman of a very good family to bee a maid of honour. But some natures are obliged with anything, and some with nothing, and upon this occasion I can't help regreting that one in the Queen's family (but indeed she is a very great lady) used part of my lodgings att Kinsington without any kind of difficulty or ceremony: and when I took the liberty to take notice of it, she removed her things and pretended she did not know they were my lodgings. And yet after that she was pleased to make use of them again, which was a proceeding perfectly new, and what in noe kind I had ever heard of before, but her edducation has not been the best, and all that she does is suitable to it. I have made this letter longer than is reasonable, or than I intended it, but you must consider me as a country lady and alone; and if Windsor is as I left it, you are not much crowded. I am with all the sincerity imaginable, dear Mrs. Coke, your most faithfull and most humble servant.

1709-10, January 2. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke at his lodgings at the Palace of St. James, London.

. . . You won't expect any news from this place, but we thank you for that you send us; especially the Tattlers have a late been very entertaining, and between the hopes of hearing of you, and reading the Tattler, your daughters are impatient for the hour of the post.

(1709-10), January 30. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice-Chamberlain Coke].

I received yours with orders to pay Beck. Quinton. Mr. Fisher made me disappoint your tenants by setting a time to meet them a week since, and is not yet come. If he does not come soon I must be obliged to give you trouble in several little particulars, which will be tedious to relate. I cannot say that Misses are well, both having great colds. Miss and Master Harpur have both been ill, which stays my Lady a week longer that she designed. Your daughter by her sheep and

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some presents for playthings has intrusted me with her purse till it is come to twenty pounds, which I suppose will compass two tickets in this State Lottery; which if you approve the venture of it, I have desired brother John, all under one trouble, to put in for them with some other I was to desire of him. Poor Miss Betty comes in with her one guinea, being all she is worth; which was given her by my cousin Walter Burdett to make up the sum. I am brewing some ale stronger than the last, concluding you will like it better. I thought you would want it by that time this is ready to send, which will be a fortnight.

1710, June 3. Chilcote.—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Yesterday your daughters and I came to this place, where we found my Lady [Catherine Clark] very well, only in some care, till she can hear from Mr. Clarke, who went on Monday last for London by Dr. Coke's advice, to take directions for his health in town. I hope before this you have met, and I would have given you notice of his coming: 'twas so sudden a resolution. I did not know of it sooner. On Wednesday I was obliged to dine at Trusley, when it was designed we should have been twenty-two of our name, but seventeen I thought pretty well. My Cousin Coke desired you would be assured of all the service in his power, and said Mr. Pole of Radbourn had been with him and assured him whatever lay in him to do should be in your service, the next election. And now I am to come with a request to you from my Cousin Coke in behalf of one of his brother Ballindines, who was brought up a sea surgeon, but now come to great misfortunes, and that my cousin understands by your place you had the power of several disposals, and that he should take it for the greatest obligation if you could procure anything towards a livelihood for his brother. My cousin said he would leave it wholly to you, and I believe the necessity is so great that nothing would come amiss. Some years since we was informed by one from his wife of their poverty, which is all I know of them, only that she was a very ordinary body he married. In my way from Trusley I made a visit to Twyford, and the Sheriff [Mr. John Harpur] came in to us: he said he was sure there was an absolute necessity of your coming, and that very soon. He went on with saying how disunited a country we now are: the business of Dr. Sacheverel had not only done ill in this, but would bring all countries to make a trial in relation to the next member they chose to that purpose; and that he could assure me that they had it from your near neighbour that you was not only against him, but that you had taken several opportunities to show yourself, and to speak and that very hotly, and when you need not have done it, against him; and this was my Lord Ferrer's information. I said politics was not belonging to me to judge in, but that I thought if the gentlemen you served was dissatisfied in anything you did for them, they might find a friendly and honourable way of letting you know their dislike, without taking the advantage of your absence (which they knew your service to the Queen obliged you to) by any underhand proceedings. He said I was right: and he would tell me further, that he himself was assured that you had done him a very particular disservice, which was, that you had directly been the means of his being kept on for Sheriff, and that his answer to them was that he would say or do nothing till he had known the truth of it from yourself. I suppose the same person was the author of this as the other. My cousin said further that he believed there was no particular person pitched of to join with Mr. Curzon as yet, but he could

tell within one who it would be; at least to two. One was Vernon, and he not named was the person I am staying with [Mr. Clark] I suppose. He said the secret was lodged between my Lord Scarsdale, Mr. Curzon, and perhaps there might be one more. He spoke as if Mr. Curzon had rather declined the coming to having any named to oppose you, but that if the gentlemen met, they should dispose of him as they pleased. My cousin said further he was sorry that all your friends on the other side the country would be against you. I said, the Ashbourn side? He said, yes; but he must except one—Captain Beresford. Nay said he, I have heard every one of Mr. Vice-Chamberlain's friends say either that they will be against him, or cannot be for him, but one, which he repeated several times over; and I since find he meant your nearest neighbour [Mr. John Hardinge]. I have been very sorry they have obliged me to open my mouth upon these occasions, but I have truly told you all I have said. I could not tell but it might be some service you should know how they stand affected. I dined yesterday at Dunisturp where my cousin [John Burdett] told me, the day before being Swarson meeting, Mr. Curzon had desired him to assure me he did not design any separation from you. My cousin said there was not a word of politics amongst them, as was expected, but all hug and kiss; and Sir Nat. [Curzon] was not amongst them. The first great meeting at Kedlestone, which was agreed to be to return Mr. Curzon thanks for the great services done his country this last year, Sir Nathaniel looked very down upon them all dinner, which as soon as done, he walked off and never saw any of the company the day again, and I believe he does not approve the present heats and confusions. But they have a great time to cool in. 'Tis alleged, by way of persuasion that you have been their representative a great while and that others that are equally capable ought to have their turns. Lord Scarsdale has very lately pressed it afresh here, upon which a letter was writ, if you continued to stand they would not oppose: but upon this sudden resolution of going to London was not sent. . . . So 'tis hoped you will meet and a right understanding be continued.

1710, June 5. (Kings) Newton.—John Hardinge to Mrs. Coke.

Madam, Having so fair an opportunity I take the freedom that there may be no misunderstanding among friends, which perhaps my meeting the gentlemen at Swarston might not unreasonably raise, to declare my mind and beg the same, if you think fit, may be communicated to Mr. Coke. I'm sure my small interest shall never countenance any opposition. If I can't serve him, as 'tis difficult to steer betwixt friends, and not split upon one of them, I'll never do him any disservice. I thought, as I was assured, to meet purely to see my friends, and be merry, and to increase my small acquaintance in the country; but I find they will in a little time meet for something else, and they seem only to want a man to exercise their zeal for, which is so furious upon the Doctor's [Sacheverell] account. And there being so large an interval before a new Parliament, probably it may resolve into a better temper. Mr. Coke's presence I believe would startle some of them, though in the main they seem to be at present pretty unanimous, and have entered into a solemn league and covenant to meet at Derby. Though I may be backward in my expressions to my friends, I think I may say there's no one retains a more grateful acknowledgment of your kindness than I do, and for the family at Melbourne, I hope I may say that to the utmost of my power.

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1710, June 20. Mellborn.—Alice Coke to Mr. Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

Dear Brother, I thought you might like to hear something concerning the proceedings of the gentlemen of the country meeting at Derby last Wednesday, which occasions me to write to you at this time, although I hope you will have it from better hands than mine, because I can't give a very perfect account of it. The meeting was resolved upon at Swarston at the club there the week before: and then it was proposed that that day they should enter into an agreement to have no dealings with any body at Derby that would not agree with them in their opinions of choosing of Parliament men, and that dissented from the Church of England. And when they met Captain Port offered a paper to them to sign to that effect, but very few liked of the motion, and it was refused signing. And afterwards Mr. Burton proposed an address to them which they agreed to sign, if they liked the contents of it, which they all did except Mr. Stanhope of Elverson, who told them there was some expressions in it contrary to his judgment, and therefore he would not set his hand to it; and Captain Port also refused the signing, as was supposed out of anger that his proposal was rejected. Mr. Curzon is desired to carry it up, which I suppose he will do very soon. My cousin J. Burdett and Mr. Harding was neither of them there, to shew their dislike to what they knew would be proposed. I hear there are some that have a mind to bring the gentlemen to an agreement to write to you by a general consent to desist from standing, and join with them in choosing one with Mr. Curzon: and this was thought would have been one proposition at last meeting, but I don't hear that it was, though it is certainly much laboured at, and the way that the angry party hopes to have take effect: and they are to continue their meeting at Swarston. My sister and nieces intend to be at home tomorrow. If I hear anything more of this matter I shall not fail of telling you.

1710, June 26. Melborne.—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke at his lodgings at the Palace of St. James, London.

I ought not longer to defer your satisfaction as to Mr. Har[dinge] who I take to be one who will be more for his friend than he is forward in saying: and as far as I can understand has not made one false step in regard to you, though he has not only been pressed, but near insulted by some, to make one in the unreasonable proceedings a late amongst them. I believe since his not meeting at Derby, nor signing the address at Kedleston the day before Mr. Curzon went with it, they are satisfied no good is to be done with him: but told his sister, who was then there, they thought her brother was one of better principles, but thought he might have some private interest to serve by Mr. Vice Chamberlain. You know that there was a particular friendship between Sir Nat. Curzon and Mr. Hardinge that's gone, and upon that account Sir Nat. expresses abundance to his children, and Mr. Curzon till now I believe has always been particularly obliging and kind to Mr. John Hardinge. So all that Mr. Hardinge meant by not engaging further in your service, was that as his interest was small, and himself so particularly obliged to you both, in a dispute in an election he might have to stand neuter. If you thought fit to break the ice by writing to him, I think it would much engage, and indeed he suffers so much at present in your service as to need your umbrage. Several seem to be sensible they suffered themselves to be much put upon by accepting of an address sent to them in the manner it was, and what they say they can't much like:

but my cousin Walter Burdett says they have shewed by it how easy they are to comply. The Swarson meeting is to be on Monday next. The most moderate amongst us are very much for accepting Lord Granby's offer to be one of the Knights of the Shire for Leicester, and the gentlemen to choose the other, in hopes they may continue united. Many of the Leicestership gentlemen have been at Staunton lately, and his Lordship [Ferrers] seems with great warmth to concern himself in all these parts. The silver saucepan with the little porringer and spoon was put up to be sent this week, but neither of your carriers is going till next week.

1710, July 8. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I am pleased to find you have (as I was apt to believe) pleased some and disappointed others by signing the address. As far as I am capable of guessing the temper of the county in general is very much mended: indeed in the reason of the thing there wanted only a little time for their own heat and management to break their own measures. And I can't but be silently pleased to myself to observe what furious pains they have taken to convince themselves of their want of power. You can best judge when will be your time to come amongst them but I heartily wish matters were brought to a settlement, both for your ease and the quiet of the neighbourhood: and without your presence to countenance your friends, and awe those whose inclination is otherways, I doubt they will be apt to renew the divisions. And if any new aggravation should arise by your seeming neglect of them (which is a particular they are very jealous in that are your friends, and are willing to aggravate and make use of that are not) I fear it would then be much more difficult to procure a right understanding and settlement of affairs than at this time. I am glad you think Mr. Vernon not to be prevailed with. I believe whatever he may have done well in the matter is very much owing to Mr. Cotton, who has without dispute acted very friendly and gentlemanlike to you in your absence, as I believe Mr. Stanhope of Elvaston has also done. And Mr. Surley, with the allowance of some expressions agreeable to his name, has been constant. My cousin Walter Burdett often hints he should not know you had received his last letter, but that Francis Hopegood sent him word of it. If you can find time to set pen to paper, it strangely obliges. I am sure I find the particular of visits so necessary to maintain a good correspondence amongst us, that without giving you the trouble of asking your leave, at the beginning of the year I set your chaise upon the four wheels again, and laid by your shafts, that you may soon return it to the same again. With it I have with great ease compassed all your neighbours, except the Vernons, who my cousin Fitzherberts (that have been sometime at Newtonl ately) tell me are very full of resentment at my sister Alice and I upon that account.

1710, July 26. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Not hearing yet the good news of my sister being brought to bed makes me fear it will not be possible for you to see this place by the 'sizes, as I much hoped you would, believing still that your presence will be absolutely necessary there: when 'tis said will be the most general meeting that has been known, and I hear all are silent till that time. But I have seen nobody but our nearest neighbour [Mr. John Hardinge] since last I writ to you. Only my Lady Catherine Clarke was so kind to give us an opportunity by her coach to carry your daughters to wait of

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my Lady Strathmore [their mother's half sister] who began her journey back for Scotland yesterday, and has passed her time under so great disappointment by not seeing her father [the Earl of Chesterfield], as could not but move our pity, though no surprise to me, that have seen so many instances of the same nature. Lady Catherine said Lord Scarsdale had now writ that he would be advised by the gentlemen, which she did not know what to make of. My Lord Ferrers is gone to Chartley, and was met at Burton and so on upon the road by five hundred horse and other mob; and a great many hogsheads of ale at their arrival set out for their welcome: but I have not heard how his popularity has been carried on since. I am now to come to a subject I am as unskilled at as what I have been upon, but will not decline anything to which friendship engages me. Mrs. Mary Hardinge has had by several of her friends a proposal made of one Mr. Sansby [Sandby] a canon of Worcester, and I believe chaplain to General Churchill, because he has lived with him, and as I understand done the business of a secretary to him: which makes me think it not improbable but you might have heard of him, or could without much difficulty have some light into the character of the person, who is wholly a stranger both to her brother and her. His birth is mean, which is a great exception: his church preferments are four hundred pounds a year, and all that is visible in money is 800*l*. His advantages under the General are said to be considerable. Mrs. Hardinge expressed that as you had given her encouragement to be so free to look upon you as her friend, that there was nobody that she should so soon depend upon, as to the character of the person, if it should happen that you did, or could, know anything of him. And she expressing it to her brother, when he writ to his uncle Gideon and Mr. Nicholas Hardinge by the last post, he desired they would wait of you. 'Tis very probable they may have other sufficient exceptions, and so not give you the trouble. Mrs. Hardinge is one I wish so entirely well, that I could not but encourage and much approve her desire of making you her friend upon any occasion; and she is one that, had she her merits, would much exceed what otherways her fortune can expect. Mr. Fisher has just come in, who has been in the Peak. He has not received much yet: but I have desired him not to make any payments till after the 'sizes, which cannot break any squares in the time, and I could not tell, if you come down, how occasions might be.

[Miss Mary Hardinge died unmarried.]

1710, August 5. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I believe your letters by the last post could not but surprise you, as well the proceedings did all your friends that were at Derby on Wednesday night last: and I hope you did not want a very just and particular account from some of those that were present, for it was timed to be not till many, that was known would not be unanimous (as they would pretend it is) were gone out of the town [Derby], as Sir Edward Coke, Mr. Cotton and several more that I am not certain of. I am told your letters to my Lord Scarsdale and Mr. Sheriff [Harpur] were both read on Monday, when the gentlemen all dined with the Sheriff, and appeared to give a general satisfaction, and by some said to be the most handsome in the world. And no mention made of their intentions till after dinner on Tuesday, when my Lord Scarsdale entertained the gentlemen. After my Lord had begun by making a speech, which I have not heard perfect enough to repeat, but the Church's being betrayed and undermined, and great aggravation

of that sort, Sir John Harpur was first applied to for his opinion, who was drawn in to say something to their purpose; and when others also had vented themselves, 'twas said the country never was better served than by Sir Gilbert Clarke, and the offer made to Mr. Clarke, who seemed to decline it some time, but soon stood up and said, since it was the unanimous desire of the gentlemen he should serve them, he would not refuse it, or to that effect. With which Mr. Thacker stood up and desired he would not call it unanimous, for it was not his desire to have you excluded, nor he believed of several gentlemen more, there. Cousin John Burdett said since the country was so quiet, why should it not continue so, but when it was put further, said he would only vote for a Curzon. I am sorry I cannot say better for him. Mr. Stanhope of Elvaston expressed his satisfaction in the service you did them, and that he liked Mr. Curzon also, but absolutely declined to agree to the change. Mr. Robert Wilmot did so also, and said that whatever his opinion was he would not declare it there, nor in that manner, and several said they should desire to be better satisfied of your declining to stand, than by anything that had appeared to them yet. Mr. Beresford and Mr. Fitz Herbert were both steady to you; and Mr. Statham spoke a great deal and in a very handsome manner. The number that was present was three and twenty as I hear. Mr. Sheriff was not present with them, and after he came to the knowledge of it, either was, or pretended, the greatest passion of anger imaginable. Dear Brother, I think there can be no ill in my telling you what has happened to come to my hearing, which could be only from our next neighbours [Hardinges] and poor Mr. Thacker, who is much perplexed at it, and free in communicating: for I am so ignorant that I can't so much as guess what you will proceed to do in it, and therefore shall be pleased it is likely to so happen that I shall see nobody till I hear further. I confess it was no great surprise to me, any further than that I did not directly judge Mr. Clarke would have been guilty of what I will not express, lest I should too much aggravate. But when I found you could not come down, I sat down prepared for something of this nature: for there is no certainty when there wants integrity in some, and courage in others, except your presence could have awed the one and encouraged the other. I think nothing can in prospect be a greater misfortune to Mr. Clarke than this present undertaking. My Lady [Catherine Clarke] is truly to be pitied at this time, for 'tis what I am satisfied she has long engaged the assurance should never be, and is under a great concern for. Lord Scarsdale took Mr. Clarke with him strait into the Peak from Derby. But Mr. Sheriff and Mr. Thacker both told Mr. Fisher their success hitherto has been very bad. Mr. Hardinge, who has been upon the circuit was to see us last night: he said he would have writ to you, and was still desirous to do it, but that he thought he could be of no service, through his ignorance of the country, and his business having kept him so much out of the way whilst at Derby. But I said if he could not be so particular as he desired I was sure you would be pleased to hear from him; so he said then he would certainly write. Mr. Vernon, I hear, answered your opinion of him. Cousin Burdetts of Foremark and Knolehills are not yet returned into Derbyshire. We begin to think it long till we hear it is well over with my sister. Your grey gelding is dead. Miss's mare must be knocked of the head, if I can get nobody to take her soon. Your Scotch pad goes lame. My sister may have the sweetmeats sent now when she pleases. I had almost forgot to tell you of our two young guests, which are Miss Cokes of Trusley: my cousin sent them the day before the 'sizes, but how long they stay I can't tell. Mr. Warren was

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one of the company, and concluding that Mr. Clarke would have my Lord Chesterfield's interests in Nottinghamshire immediately, offered his service for the bringing them in.

1710, August 7. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

My Cousin John Burdett is come to us, to ease his mind by giving a very particular relation of their transactions on Tuesday. As to himself I find the matter of fact was the same that I writ to you the last post, that he would vote for Mr. Curzon only, Mr. Clarke and you being both his friends he would vote for neither. I believe he heartily repents having engaged himself not to meddle, and gave me an account of those in his town, and wished me to send to Mr. Allen, and to Parnells, which I have already done. But to my great wonder I must unsay what I said by the last post of Captain Beresford, and, I fear, of Mr. Fitz Herbert. The first had engaged several votes in Ashbourn for the new setters up, at which time I sent a how-do-ye both to him and my cousin Boothby by a servant that went to the fair. They have lost no time, nor spare to say what is most for their purpose, as that you have declined standing, and desired Mr. Clarke to accept it, and engaged your interest for him. And I hear Mr. Fitz Herbert expressed a great respect for you, but declared your proceedings in Parliament were so contrary to his principles, that if you were his own father the case would be the same, that he could not vote for you, though he would not vote against you. And many declare their want of satisfaction in that particular, and I believe the clergy are general against you. There was a great many gentlemen sent for by my Lord Scarsdale, but refused to come: but I know the names of none but Sir Edward Coke, and Mr. Hardinge, and Mr. Holden, Counsellor. Mr. Coke of Trusley and Mr. Cotton was gone out of town. His daughters are gone home. Ballindon was one of the company, and I believe engaged as desired. Mrs. Turner of Derby is come in to dinner, and in a great heat for you: but says they say it with all the assurance imaginable at Derby that you decline standing. Dear Brother, you can best judge, but as your absence has given them the advantage of doing this, I wish it don't prove a great expense for a great uncertainty; for I know no friend hereabouts that can effectually serve you. But if you do continue the resolution of standing, I don't doubt but you'll write to every one of your friends in particular, and not defer your coming much longer. Mr. Vernon refused the standing, yet I am told they believe he is amongst them now. I believe you need not fear Mr. John Hardinge, and I am apt to think Mr. Curzon will do by him as by you,—set you free from all obligation.

1710, August 9. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

All I can say in relation to late proceedings is that it is carried on with the greatest vehemence possible, and the false report of your desisting spread with that industry and assurance as would surprise one, but that all their measures, as they begun, must proceed in perfidiousness. The gentlemen are very unanimous in it, though I can hear of none that justifies it, but disclaim it as their doing. 'Tis said there was not above three in the secret, and that Mr. Clarke was not one. I can't but love your goodness and designed behaviour to him, and shall have to endeavour to do the same. All say never any one did anything with so great confusion and disorder; but certainly it suits much with his inclinations, and I doubt he is too far engaged to withdraw . . . Mr. Sheriff's [Harpur]

pretended heat of anger at the proceeding at first is now as furiously bent in making all the interest hereabouts against you. . . . I find at the first proposal at Derby the question was put a second time to those that was for you, whether in case you joined with the fanatical part, they would then be for a Coke, and I thought Mr. Cotton's letter (inclosed) seemed to hint the same. How far your immediate presence amongst them might startle the many ungrateful in their dishonourable proceedings, I am not capable to judge. There must be no delay in it, in case you have any thoughts of continuing to stand. Cantrill and Hazard of Hartshorn say their votes shall be always yours. The Freeholders of Findern and Stenson by Samuel Sims all entirely the same, but two, though Mr. Sheriff had been first with them, who they valued no more than the dirt of their shoes, but desired you might know you had no greater enemy than him: and was sure you would find as great a friend of Mr. Pole, and also Mr. Gilbert of Lockoe. I am sensible all this is very insignificant, but as nothing must be neglected, so you will bear with my relation of it. Mr. Hardinge thinks you much in the right at present to declare your standing, but though Mr. Clarke be very unsteady, yet this matter is so much to his inclination, and he is so far engaged in it that he fears he will certainly persist; and the gentlemen are so unanimous and active for Clarke and Curzon that he will as certainly be chose. Mr. Sheriff met with your butler, and thought fit in a very extraordinary manner to converse with him, by telling him it was to no purpose for you to think of standing now, it was too late: 'twas true he had a letter for you at assizes, but you should have been there to have answered for yourself. He said his brother had been making interest for you, but they had sent to put a stop to it. He gave his service to us.

1710, August 12. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, at his lodgings at the Palace of St. James, London.

I have but just time to give you joy of your daughter, and we all rejoice to hear my sister is so far safe, and wish the continuance of it. As to election affairs the town of Derby is said to be very much gone over, since Mr. Curzon's and Mr. Clarke's going about with my Lord Chesterfield 's letter, but I believe you have got many there. . . . . Tis past expression the unanimous ingratitude of most in these parts, but in my simple judgment, however you shall think fit to determine, I shall wish your presence amongst them. There is a great meeting this day at Nottingham where Sir John [Harpur] and the High Sheriff are gone. Cousin Burdetts are expected home this night. I hear my Lord Ferrers is not so firm to them as expected, but my authority is but uncertain.

1710, August 16. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke).

I cannot be silent, nor forbear expressing my uneasiness at the present posture of affairs, since you continue the resolution of standing, as Mr. Cotton gave me to understand. He expressed great desire of serving you, but seemed to fear it was not now in any of your friends power to do it, for this time; and questioned whether it was not of more service to you for them to lie still: but said he came to enquire what agents you had employed hereabouts. I said I did not know of any directions you had given Fisher, nor any other, but named those gentlemen that I knew did make endeavours: by which I found that they don't so much as know of one another's proceedings. I told Mr. Cotton that as several had desired to know the certainty of your standing, I had given the assurance of it.

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What your particular reasons have been to prevent your coming and now deter you, to be sure you best and only know: but whilst you are absent things, I believe, go backward every day. And yet one may find that votes are to be had wherever I could try, and in places where they say with great assurance all are engaged: but as nothing to the purpose, nor in a regular way, can have been done here, so 'tis not possible to make any judgment of the matter. Mr. Allen came here this morning in his way to Nottingham race. He says he is more obliged to you than any man living, and loves you the best, and has assured Mr. Clarke he will never be against you. He said he feared it was too late now. They have positively said he was brought over; but though not so, I cannot find that he has stirred to make any interest.

1710, August 19. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

We was all extremely concerned to hear of my sister's illness by yours of the last post: we can only wait with patience and pray God for the best. As soon as I received the list of the last poll for Greasley and Repton Hundred I had it examined, and all necessary amendments made, and drawn out into three or four divisions, as it might be despatched with most convenience. There was two towns omitted in your list, which was Meesum (Measham) and Willesley, the first of which has a pretty number of freeholders in it, and most promised to you, upon sending to. For finding that wherever they was sent to an inclination for you appears, and a desire of the assurance of your standing, and votes to be had, I have made use of John Seargant and your butler, to be upon the constant move, the best I could all along: finding success more or less wherever they went, and I hope nothing improper has been by it, though it would not, till with your direction, be to any considerable purpose. Mr. Troughton [Vicar of Melbourne] is very hearty and sincere in your service; and the best assistance I could think of for the regulating the list of the poll was him, John Beresford and John Seargant and Mr. Fisher. As to Mr. Fisher he says he will serve you in all ways he can, in all places but where my Lords [Chesterfield] interest lies, which so much interferes with yours in so many places that 'tis my opinion you will not think it proper to have his going or speaking relied upon. On the other side I believe you will not think it convenient to have him wholly disobliged at this time. So as for his information it shall be accepted; and his going I suppose had best not be refused, but must not be trusted to only. Beresford and Seargant are two of the best I can think of to go out and John Ratcliff also desires the part he used to have. Your butler's headpiece is not great, but he knows places and persons, and I have found his good words and good manners has not been unacceptable. I hear there is a proposal sent you from Derby and from the High Sheriff. I wish Mr. Turnour is not biassed by my Lord Chesterfield, but he says he will do all that's possible. And Sir John [Harpur] I hear has a debt too, from him, which is to be forgiven: but where to find Mr. Sheriff [Harpur] with his politics is past me, and therefore which way he may influence him, I can't tell. Mr. Gilbert of Lockoe has been very stirring in your interest lately. Cousin John Burdett cannot but be more in your interest than he said he would. He sent me word how much things cooled, and he thought still would. Cousin Walter Burdett sent his chaise yesterday for us to see his niece Betty Jodrell. In our way we met Lady Catherine [Clarke] and Mrs. Philips coming to Melbourn, who went with us to Knolehills, and in the afternoon Sir John Harpur and my Lady came in. My governor according to custom drunk the ladies

health too fast ; after which he proposed to Sir John the three candidates, and Sir John bid him drink them according to inclination; so he begun with you and ended with Mr. Clarke : after which he said some things so hard about sudden turnabouts, that I was not a little concerned, but the manner was so comical, that it ended only in great mirth, and Sir John was very easy, and better than before. Mr. Clarke was to go from the race to the Peak and after that to his aunt in Northamptonshire. I believe your presence would secure both Cousin Walter and Cousin Robert Burdett to act in a handsome and reasonable manner to you. Mr. Cotton is absent about his own election. I hear my Cousin Fitzherbert seems much moderated ; but Captn. Beresford says, not to be zealous when engaged is to desert a cause. My sister Alice is rather worse today than she has been. Mr. Hardinge is not returned from the race.

1710, August 26. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Your packet of letters are sent accordingly, and more added by Mr. Fisher the best he could judge, and Mr. Troughton. They thought it would do well to some of the clergy, and in some places to some of the top of the freeholders, to communicate to their neighbours. I an very glad to hear my sister is better, and heartily wish she may continue so, and that we may see you down ; for I fear nothing can be done in your absence to any purpose ; which I am satisfied you so well know, that you will do it when you can, since you continue your resolution of standing : for which I don't doubt but you have sufficient reasons, and I am sure it is not material for me to know them. . . . On Monday last Mr. Statham sent me a list of Apletree Hundred, and said they was not quite so ungrateful about him, as in your own Hundred. On Tuesday my cousin Coke of Trusley came over and gave me to understand that Sir Edward Coke, and he thought Mr. Cotton and most of your friends, as well as himself had writ you their opinion that by the best they could judge it was impossible for you to succeed. And they all wished you would acquiesce for this time, by which you would so much oblige the gentlemen, as to regain many for your friends against the next time. My Cousin Coke said he had spoke to Mr. Pool of Radbourn, who seemed inclined to you, but said he should be swayed by the Duke of Devonshire. I don't find any body knows how the Duke of Rutland's interest goes ; nor the Duke of Newcastle's, though some say Mr. Clarke has it. I found the other day by Dr. Coke, who had been on Ashbourn side, that they began to be in fear for Mr. Curzon, and that it was suspected Mr. Clarke did not do fair ; but there is so little truth to be heard, that I am afraid to repeat. John Seargant went with the Derby letters and those beyond. Basford and Sims and John are gone out today ; and you shall have the best account I can on Monday of their proceedings. There is not many that will directly promise. Some say they will not say till they come to Derby : others, one vote to you, and the other to one of the others : and others that have promised, upon the saying that you did not stand, though some of them say they know no reason why they should keep their promise, when the gentlemen come to them with a falsity in their mouths. I cannot pretend to judge how far your presence and a right management might retrieve and prevail. But those that are your friends don't stir to the purpose, and seem to think it is more to your service not to do it : and yet it is manifest there where they are not sent to, it is a sufficient objection that they are not taken notice of. So I doubt I only run on in confusion by this scribble to no purpose. Your letter went yesterday to Mr. Willmote of

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Duffield, who I hear is against you: but Mr. Troughton had notice sent him last night that all the rest of that town was not to be gained either by him [Mr. Clarke?] or the Curzons, so John is gone thither with a letter to Mr. Pinder and two of the freeholders. For the further truth you shall hear next post. My cousin Ward was here on Wednesday, hearing you were come. Mr. Stanhope also came as far as Newton upon the same. Dr. Coke and his wife are come: my sister Alice's fever continues, but I hope in God, not dangerous. I don't hear you have writ to Mrs. Grey, who, by her steward I believe, still inclines notwithstanding her promise. Sir John Harpur resents you never write to him. Whether you will think well to do it now, I could not tell.

1710, August 27. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to (Vice Chamberlain Coke).

My sending this to you is without the knowledge of any one except my sisters, and the servant who brings it. It comes from one who cannot make a right judgment in these cases, but must be earnestly in your service, and would fain have you know the truth of things as far as I can procure it for you, and have the greatest trial imaginable upon me to see you used as you are at this present. Your letters were despatched as soon as received, and at the return of the messengers I found a general unexpected civility, and a concern expressed that they was engaged, and though they could not get from the promise of their own vote, they should be desirous to serve you. I think I may venture to assure you there appears a general apprehension of Mr. Curzon being in danger, if you pursue the standing. Many are very industrious in reporting you cannot come, and have malice enough to give the reason that your money occasions are such that you durst not. For I believe there is nothing they dread so much as the alteration that your presence would make, and a right management of affairs, if there was time for it. Mr. Hinton of Derby passed by here yestesday and met Mr. Fisher in the Field, and told him he was going out of the country for quiet's sake for a time: he said he was satisfied, if you would personally appear now amongst them, that the gentlemen were so generally ashamed and sensible of their wrong proceedings, though perhaps their personal votes they could not well recall from promise, yet they would favour you by leaving all the freeholders at liberty; and he thought you might certainly prevail, and Mr. Curzon would lose it. The freeholders do not stick to say they will show their liberty in voting. Dearest Brother, I think I have said nothing but with just grounds, and I may the better venture so far as the pressing the seeing you: because 'tis certain whichever way you determine, you will do it in a manner becoming yourself, which will give great satisfaction to your friends, who have so long wanted it by your absence; and who are disheartened by the confidence of the other party, who do not spare the saying all's their own, in every place. I will only add that I cannot find that any one gentleman but excuses their being brought in either through surprise, or mistake of your desisting, as some call it, others deserting—others the necessity of agreeing with the gentlemen. And like Caulk House, the thing is done but nobody did it. And though there is nothing to be said for such a proceeding as is beyond example, yet I believe you would find more goodwill to you yet remaining and would shew itself when you appear amongst them, than at this distance you might reasonably judge. But it is a hard thing for people to own themselves in the wrong, and it is no wonder they try as far as they can to have you come down to their terms. Mr. Fisher has worked hard a late, but he knows nothing of this sending, for it is impossible to know how far my Lord's

[Chesterfield] interest makes confusion in yours: but I believe the managers of it intend, if you succeed, to make a merit of dividing between Clarke and you. 'Twas said that at the race my Lord Granby recalled the orders that the Duke of Rutland had given of his interest for you: but of this to be sure you have a certainty (if so) from better hands: but it gave a great check to your friends. We found Duffield very well inclined, and John Seargant goes out tomorrow towards Mansfield, and along the edge of Nottinghamshire, where we can't find that any body has been yet. Dear Brother, if you judge all this folly, I am sure you will accept the intention.

1710, August 30. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

My sister Alice feverish disorder continues, and I cannot say I am quite without fear by reason she cannot bear the taking the Jesuits' bark; but she has been so well yesterday and today without it, that we are in great hopes it will quite go off. I find the gentlemen say they cannot believe you in earnest the standing, by reason you do not come down, and makes those in a lower degree say they fear they are only gaining enemies to no purpose. There can be nothing done to the purpose, nor as it ought to be, in your absence, and I cannot but continue to wish your presence here, because I am satisfied there is nothing your enemies dread so much. I hear my cousin John Burdett tells them all that if Mr. Curzon be thrown out, 'tis no more than they deserve. He seems to think that your letter has much mollified furious Will. Brown, who says he would ride a thousand miles to serve you in anything, but state affairs. And parson Cary, who had a letter amongst others of the clergy, and has been a warm stirring man, came to Dunisturp, and said, since you had thought fit to take notice of him and more of the clergy, he would not make another vote against you. Those that have been at Nottingham have brought a certainty of some, and the assurance of several more, but Mr. Warren and Sir Thomas Willoughby's interest much thwarts yours. My Lady Bellamont divides her interest now between Mr. Clarke and you. Mrs. Cavendish I hear says, notwithstanding her son's proceedings, when she finds you come down, hers shall be yours. And Mrs. Gray I believe inclines much to you. I fear you have received a very extraordinary letter from cousin Walter [Burdett]: he showed me a sketch of it, which I told him I thought would appear very odd and unkind, except he could be his own interpreter; and what he has writ I can't tell, not having seen him since. I thank you for the good news, and conclude my sister was better because you did not mention to the contrary.

1710, September 2. (Melbourne.) — Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Your servant returned on Wednesday night which gave me a great satisfaction in your approbation of his being sent, but especially in confirming my hopes of your coming into the country, and that the ill success will be no disappointment in case it happens. I much please myself in the hope that you will put all friendships to the test, which and the fear how far your presence may prevail upon the general shame in having done that they don't desire to answer to your face, and the knowing of the goodwill of the freeholders to you, makes your presence less wished for by most than ever at any time—I may say dreaded—though to be sure they are so much hardened by success as is possible. One of the first things after the noble resolution at Derby was, they said if they could pull you down in the country, they should be sure to do it

above, and nothing is more visible than that envy has been the spur to all their ingratitude. But we must not aggravate, or speak to give offence. There is none of your friends will make a step further till they see you, and are free in saying your success is an impossibility, which is one great help towards it, for the freeholders are not willing to disoblige to no purpose, and therefore every day will lose ground. Seargant is going through Apletree Hundred again, and Bamford of Ticknall and Basford together will go through this Hundred again. Bamford, the baily of the Hundred to Sir John Harpur, makes no scruple of venturing to be sincere, I think, in your service. Mr. Fisher I cannot tell what to say in. I cannot say but he might have done much more by thinking of some agents that might be serviceable. I have pressed it extremely on him and he has promised me to go to Derby and see what proper agents can be had to assist. It is visible Mr. Turnour exerts himself in words only, and I believe Mr. Gilbert now lies still amongst the rest for your coming. I would fain have two or three of a better rank to have kept moving, and to back the inferior sort. Mrs. Grey leaves it to her agents, who are sure to give you one vote, but I believe the other is for Mr. Clarke. Your letters to Repton Knolehills and Swarson were all received extreme well. Cousin Walter [Burdett] dined with us and is in great passions of kindness to you, but there is much of Curzon also in him. Cousin Robin is inclined to you in a cautious way, but with that honour and inclination that I believe, when you meet, you will have some satisfaction in him. Mr. Trott John Seargant met with in his first travels, who said he was sorry he came too late, and the old gentlewoman wept upon it. I believe he is resolvedly engaged, for Seargant upon the road happened to be in an inn, where he came in, but he would not speak, nor take no further notice than a bow. My cousin Boothby sent me a very civil letter of concern that things happened as they are; that Mr. Boothby thought himself engaged in honour, being one of the number at Derby. I don't find that Mr. Lay of Mafield has done anything in your service. The gentlemen as I heard that first began the opposition in the garden, for good luck sake as they called it, were Warren, Thomas Greasley and Will. Brown. They were so loud in the little house with the door shut that poor Sir John heard them, and concluded it a quarrel, and would have sent Will. Francis to part them, who was more willing they should fight it out. I have long wished to know who was the first that mentioned it at table, to have sent you word, but cannot hear. In the disposal of the letters I could have no better advice than Mr. Troughton and Fisher: there has been no distinction of party, so I suppose offence of both sides will be given. Mr. Dakeyne came since I began this: offers his service to be stirring where he may be most serviceable both out of town and in. He believed he could also satisfy of some that would be stirring till you came: but said people would not have it scarce yet that you will stand. He said he found they was in fears for Mr. Curzon, and now endeavoured to get single votes for him where they could. I have had no opportunity to mention anything in Sir Ph. Leving's interest: and I find your having favoured him has put a stop to a very considerable party in Derby, which pause upon it, and desire to know whether you writ down for him, or no, of John Seargant, when he delivered the letters. Mr. Troughton [Vicar of Melbourne] desires me to remind you of writing to Dr. Willis, the Dean of Lincoln, who has many presentations depending on him as parson of Wirksworth. He thought Captain Tate, Colonel Wilson, and Mr. Phillips, though of Leicestershire, used to be concerned in your interest, and was omitted writing to. Mrs. Leech is to be writ to by yourself, as also Captain Prime.

1710, September 3. (Somerset House.)—Mrs. Sanderson to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I omitted telling you yesterday that Mrs. Rose and the others are Papishes, and drive trades. And since Mr. Hutton has taken his namesake the Doctor into his lodgings with him, I am misley (miserably?) straitened by his taking a room from me, for his better convenience; purposing that when Mrs. Rose was removed, the garret she was in would lie more convenient for me. I humbly beg your favour with the Duke of Shrewsbury that I may have it: it is upon the back of my kitchen. At present I have never a place to lay my servants in, nor to put anything out of the way.

1710, September 4. (Melbourne.) — Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Mr. Turnour dined here yesterday and there wanted no assurances in words: he told me he had done what he could in the town, but I could not find that he knew the certainty how any stood affected to you. He was to meet Mr. Bradshaw, Receiver, to consider of somebody more, to be stirring about Chesterfield side, and those parts of Scarsdale, where has been a great want. Mr. Fisher was yesterday with Mr. Cotton, who told him he and more of your friends continued the opinion of your desisting. Fisher told him of Doctor Atterbury's letter to Mr. Walker, Minister of Derby, who is since dead, and the letter has lain in his brother the High Constable's hands till the other day Mr. Bondclift procured it for Mr. Fisher, who was immediately for getting copies attested, and to be shown abroad: which upon consideration I durst not do without your direction, lest it should break anyways your measures when you come. Mr. Cotton thought, had it been known to the gentlemen before the assizes, it might have done much; or could you get a fresh one now, and if Dr. Smallridge would do the like, and was not known to any of the clergy, he might write for the same purpose to Mr. Cotton himself. I own I am so proud as to think you need no vindication but what time and yourself will give you. Mr. Cotton told Fisher that Mr. Curzon said he found the dispute would lie between him and you, and that he washes his hands of any standing design, or that it was anyways his procuring the parting; and equally clears my Lord Scarsdale [Leke] and Clarke. I think you must be hardened to all provocation by this time. When Turnour sent to ask Mr. Crumpton's vote for you, his answer was that he did not know but Clarke might be as good a member as yourself, for the gentlemen were angry at you, because you were against the game bill, and all the old women for not bringing your wife to lie in in the country. Forgive my prolonging with his jests. My sister Alice mends but very slowly.

1710, September 11. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

On Saturday night I received your letter, and it appeared very suspicious of having been opened. I am this day going to take leave of my Lady Harpur, with Mrs. Burdett: my Lady beginning her journey for London tomorrow. My Lady seemed to take what I mentioned from you very well, and said she did not pretend to meddle in public matters, yet she had before endeavoured to persuade Sir John, and thought she had prevailed, that civility and good neighbourhood might be continued. Sir John they say cannot bear the name of election, and I believe is glad he is leaving the country: yet in this as in other things the positiveness of his temper prevails. And I find my Lady did interpose in one particular; for when Sir John sent to recall what

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votes Captain Harpur had made for you in the Peak, his tenants would not yield to go from their first engagement, which my Lady thought was too far imposing, and I believe did show some warmth in prevailing upon Sir John. I believe Mr. Boothby's letter satisfied you as to his particular. Mr. Fitzherbert, with great professions of respect and kindness to you and all your family, makes it his daily labour to make all the votes he can against you; but says he went on purpose to the Assizes to meet you, where had you been, nothing of this had been. Captain Beresford does not allow himself rest a nights for his earnestness in the cause, and says he thinks it will be his death: he can now act with a good courage and without control of this side, since your friend Hardinge's gone. Mr. Vernon is looked upon as your friend. I hear, he says that he would not have Mr. Clarke make the request of the gentlemen his excuse to you, for none could have had a greater share of that than himself; but if his inclinations would have led him to accept it, he could not have given himself leave to have done so by you. My Lord Ferrers goes this day to Chartley to hunt a stag, and (he says) about the election: but Mr. Clarke and Mr. Curzon are also to be there most part of the week. Mr. Fisher says he is well informed that your interest declines daily by your not coming. Mr. Curzon is very much out of humour with the gentlemen and very uneasy. Mr. Thacker sent to tell me he had more correspondence with your friends than at first, and that he thought he might assure you you daily gained ground. So you will find what I say in one line, I contradict in another, and leave you to judge. I must do Dakeyne of Derby justice, who finds no excuse, but does to his best. Mr. Troughton is hearty. A man from Dovebridge informed that many of the freeholders there was under an agreement not to vote for Mr. Clarke; upon which John and Samuel Sims went and found in part true. Mr. Cavendish had made some votes for Mr. Curzon, but not for Mr. Clarke. John is also to call of my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury's steward. Mr. Wilkins and his son went to Warwick the beginning of last week to meet Mr. Nicholas Hardinge, and old Swindall of Tonge was there also, by whom I hear Mr. Wilkins expressed great uneasiness that he was engaged against you. As far as I can find Mr. Hardinge called them great fools for their pains, and told them 'twas his opinion you are not solicitous about the success, but thought fit to try your friends; and that he believed they would soon see you have better preferment than their representative.

1710, September 16. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Mr. Clarke was to wait of Dr. Gery, who told him he was engaged to you: but the Dr. has not had any letter from my Lord Huntingdon, as he expected he should upon your waiting of my Lord: my Lord's letter should be procured before Mr. Clarke's next visit. This looks suspicious, but hitherto it has not been profession only, for they have engaged them they could, with great earnestness. Mr. Clarke has been round this Hundred himself, and Will. Brown, who personated Mr. Curzon among the ignorant. Your not coming makes it impossible to make it certainly believed that you will stand, and sets the others more earnestly on. John returned from Dovebridge: he could not find there that Mr. Cavendish stirred much. He went to Mr. Lay's who went with him to Ashbourn; but it happened to be a day of great concourse to that town, new organs being given to the church, and that day opened to the neighbourhood thereabouts: so that they could not do much. I think they met with about three promises. John said the

man of the inn told him that Bagshaw's son, of Bakewell, said there had come a letter from the Duke of Rutland to his father, in which there was directions for the Duke's interest to go for both Clarke and Curzon. John was also with Mr. Bill, the Duke of Shrewsbury's steward, who said he knew of no votes thereabouts, but his own. I am satisfied you're sensible that many of the gentlemen are afraid of being brought to the test; but I hope you will not be prevailed with to keep at a distance, but give some the pain, and others the pleasure, of seeing you, whichever way you determine it. My Cousin Walter B[urdett] continues zealously kind, and in a more reasonable way a late, than usual. Mr. Surly told me that the first man that named a division was Tom Griesly [Gresly]: but his words was only Clarke and Curzon: then after it came to be single voted. I cannot say as to the letters being opened; but the postwoman is zealous in your interest, and assured me she delivered it safe, and that it was fallen down by accident; but she would be more careful for the future.

1711, August 30. The *Jersey* at Jamaica.—Lieut. Robert Littill to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain, at his lodgings in St. James's Palace.

The *Nonsuch* being ordered home I made a change with the Lieutenant of the *Jersey*. We sailed to Hispaniola and thence to Carthagena. We stood so near to Du Cass's ship, we could see his men on the deck, but he went into Bochochecho. Next morning saw four sail which we all (*Defiance*, *Salisbury*, *Nonsuch* and *Jersey*) chased, and we took a small ship of war of 26 guns, which I came in Captain of, and the Vice Admiral of Spain, who was wounded and since dead. We have shared our prize money in parts. I have received 40*l*. I have made bold to send you by the bearer a double doubloon for a pocket piece, which I beg you will accept; as also 20 pistoles to my mother, which I beg you will let your steward send down to her. My Captain's name is Vernon, which uses me with abundance of good manners: you know his friends.

1711–2, February 6. "Orders to be observed at the Gate and in the Court by Her Majesty's Porters and Provost Marshals on Wednesday the 6th of February 17$\frac{1}{12}$ being Her Majesty's Birthday."

That no Hackney Coaches be permitted to wait or hinder the Coaches of Persons of Quality coming to St. James's Gate and attending there conveniently.

That the Porters do not allow any persons to come into St. James's Palace that day but Her Majesty's Servants, Persons of Quality and Distinction, and their Retinue.

That no Hackney Coaches whatsoever be permitted that day to pass beyond the entrance of the Great Gate of St. James's Palace.

That all Flamboys be extinguished at the entrance into the Gate there and none suffered to be lighted in the said Palace.

That no Footman or other person be permitted to stay in any part of the passage of the Piazza leading to the Great Staircase, but the Footmen and Chairmen only are to wait without in the Court, and no other person, except the soldiers employed, to stand in the Court.

That there be a range of Foot Soldiers from the Great Gate to the foot of the Great Stairs, and a sufficient guard at the Fore Gate, Back Gate and all the passages and back doors.

That the doors towards the Pall-Mall and the Park be locked up early that morning.

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That a post or bar be set up in the gateway of the Back Court to hinder all coaches from coming in there, as also to prevent all persons except Her Majesty's Servants from coming into the Court that way.

That the Chairs of all persons of Quality be ranged in the Little Court between the Great Staircase and Her Majesty's Back Stairs, and one of the Porters is to wait at the foot of the Great Stairs to call for the Chairmen and Footmen of Persons of Quality as occasion may require.

That no person or their servants be permitted to wait in the passage near Her Majesty's Back Stairs except the servants immediately in waiting on the Queen, all the Ladies of the Bedchamber, all the Women of the Bedchamber, the Lord Treasurer and the Lord Chamberlain.

That the Bonefire be not lighted, nor the strong drink given to the Soldiers till ten a clock at night.

1712, July 3. Grampound.—Roger Teage to the Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain.

Presuming you have not received an account of the proceedings that happened here lately, I think it my duty (being for your interest) to send you a particular account what was done by the Mayor and Recorder the last law court: where being met, and a jury returned and swearen, they voted Thomas Dennis and Nathaniel Harvey out of the magistracy, which two persons are entirely in your interest. The proceedings herein being wrong, unjustifiable and without any former precedent, they have made their application to me, desiring you would be pleased to take a legal course to restore them, and to that end they beg the favour you would employ Mr. Joseph Sherwood of New Inn. And it's my humble request that for the future you'll order the News to be directed to me, and not to the Mayor of Grampont.

1712, July 12. Dublin.—Sir Richard Levinge to the Rt. Hble. Mr. Coke, Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household at St. James's.

I did myself the honour some months ago to write you a very long letter on the subject of the time. How things are altered since I do not know; and find every day the unhappiness of men in station in Ireland. We are strangers to affairs, and know not how to apply ourselves to our old friends, because we know not how they stand affected themselves, or how they are in respect of others. It was the experience of your goodness to me that made me give you so great a trouble: which also gave me the confidence to impart to you some circumstances relating to myself, which I would not have communicated to any other. . . . I will impute your silence to some very good reason, which I cannot know where I am, nor is in your prudence proper to be told me. I have a very great desire to wait upon you myself, but I cannot stir without a licence under the great seal.

1712, July 23. Gand (Ghent). Colonel J. Cope to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

My Lord Duke of Ormonde will dine in town this day, but returns to his quarters at night, which are taken three leagues from hence, where the army is to encamp this night. 'Tis thought we shall continue in this situation for some time, at least till the cessation last declared be expired, which is for two months. When the troops separated, they say 'twas the melancholiest sight that ever was. The foreign Generals took leave of my Lord Duke with tears in their eyes, and most of the private men of both their troops and ours showed a more than ordinary concern for parting with people they had so long served with. We don't doubt but Prince Eugene will be master of Landrecies in a

small time, though believe that our train is a considerable loss to them. We have had several quarrels between the officers and private men of the Dutch and Germans, in so much that we are forced to keep our men as separate from them as possible. I must beg leave to recommend myself to you for the continuance of your protection and favour, of which I have had so great a share already. I beg my most humble compliments to your lady.

1712, July 26. Grampound.—Ro. Teage to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I am well satisfied by the advice of the Attorney General and Serjeant Hooper that at present we have no legal Mayor: though I know that he will when the time comes, which is the Sunday before Michaelmas Day, proceed to the election of a new Mayor. If it comes to that, it will be one of their own party, and perhaps as great a rogue as the pretended Mayor is now. The time is so short that he cannot be put out before the time comes. But with humble submission I have thought of a way, which will frustrate all their designs and secure the interest; which is by getting a new charter for us, which I know you can do, if you please. I am verily persuaded it will be done cheaper than it will stand to try it at law. I hope the young Mr. Vincent has waited on you with our Address.

1712, August 2. *Jersey* at the Buoy of the Nore.—Robert Littill to the Rt. Hble. Mr. Coke, Vice Chamberlain, at his lodgings in St James's House.

I ask pardon for not writing before, having touched at Newcastle and Yarmouth: but it hath been my misfortune, as well as the best part of the ship's company, to be taken very ill since we came into the Northern Seas. But at this time we are all pretty well recovered. We have been tomorrow eleven weeks from Jamaica: the length of the voyage was caused by our coming north about. I have never heard of any of my friends since I have been out of the land.

1712, August 2. Bath.—William Skrine to Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain, at Windsor.

I had this morning the honour of your commands for taking the same lodgings you had last. I went to Mrs. Gibbs, but could not get her to take less than you gave her last. I am very much obliged to you for making use of my tenant's stables: I've ordered him to get them ready. I wish you a good journey. My most humble service to your lady.

1712, August 5. N.S. Terroa in Portugal.—Charles Keightley to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I return you my hearty thanks for the honour you have always done me and my brother, and in recommending me to my Colonel, which is now Brigadier Vessey. He has given me a Lieutenant's commission, and is very kind to me upon all occasions. Our army here are all in quarters and in expectation of a peace. I humbly beg of your honour that if there are any regiments ordered to go abroad, that you'll give me your interest to go with any of them. I understand that my brother is yet a prisoner: I have not heard from him since I had the honour of seing you last.

1712, August 9. Chilcott.—Colonel Henry Hunt to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain to her Majesty at St James's Palace.

Your horse proved as I expected, and I hope will to the last, and though all odds were laid against you, we won it with ease; and the

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rider (which was the Lord Chesterfield's groom called "Fine George" that lived formerly with the Duke of Rutland) assures me he'll be the best horse in England another year. If you'll let him he believes he can help you to a chapman: but unless you have a great rate for him, every body advises the keeping of him. And if you please to favour me with it, he shall be very welcome. He is this minute going back to Blockley where I should be glad to receive your commands. The unexpected success made Mr. Hardinge and myself too generous, as you'll see by the charges on the other side.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Clarke paid his forfeiture 5 guineas -	5	7	6
Mr. Burdett 10 guineas - - -	10	15	0
Mr. Fisher for you 5 guineas - -	5	7	6
Col. Hunt 5 guineas - - -	5	7	6
	26	17	6
gave the rider 2 guineas - - -	2	3	0
for a riding suit - - - -	1	1	6
to the groom - - - -	1	1	6
for drawing the articles the winning horse to pay -		10	9
extraordinary charges on the road and at Swarson	2	12	6
	7	9	3
The half of 26*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* is - -	13	8	9
„ „ 7*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* is - - -	3	14	7
There is in hands for Madm. Coke -	9	14	2

I hope the next will be a gold cup.

(1712, August.) Grampound.—Roger Teage to the Rt. Honble. the Vice Chamberlain Coke at St James's, London.

I have the favour of yours, and since all the acts of the pretended Mayor are void, there is no occasion for us to trouble ourselves any further, or to have any further thoughts of a new charter. And seeing I have already entered a protest in form against his proceedings, I should think it not advisable for us to attend the election of a new Mayor; about which I desire you will be pleased to discourse the old Mr. Vincent when he comes to wait on you. And what you and he think fit to be done here shall be performed to the utmost of my power.

1712, September 6. Ghent.—General C. Sibourg to [Vice Chamberain Coke].

Last Saturday I received yours of the 3rd. August: where it has been all this time I cannot imagine. With a great pleasure I'll perform those little commissions you honour me with. Next week I'll go to Antwerp to get the velvet; that is, as I am told, the best place. I am in doubt about the cambrick: the pieces are of different sizes, some are for nine handkerchiefs, others for double the number. The finest I can find here for nine will come about four pistoles. I shall expect your direction as to that. I fear we shall have time enough to exchange letters before I can think of getting for Great Britain. It is but too common that we that are at our duty neglect our business; and this time may be called the critical minute. We have reports here of the breaking of

many more regiments than our first list of 36. If so it must be very bad with me. You are the best friend I can have recourse to both for advice and assistance. It is a damned thing to outlive one's trade,—principalement quand on a toujours compté sans son hoste, and the balance is always on the wrong side. This is pretty melancholy, but—Vogue la galére; avec un tel pilote que vous, je me fais fort de passer tous les écueils. Think of poor John in pudding time. I'll take of coffee colour handkerchiefs and plain snuff. If my zeal is as great in these trifles, I hope you'll believe I only want power for matters of greater moment.

(1712), September 9. N. S. Ghent.—General C. Sibourg to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

We have the news of my Lord Rivers being dead. It may happen that some of our great men, either of horse or dragoons, may get that old regiment, and by that some of my low station might be thought of for the regiment they leave. I don't doubt but you remember that the time the Queen ordered my Lord Lansdowne to tell me Her Majesty's pleasure for the regiment I have at present, his Lordship had also orders to assure me that Her Majesty designed to provide for me when occasion offered in the horse. What I wish I could obtain is the Queen's being put in mind of that gracious assurance: and you, dear Sir, are the person I fly to for this assistance. I spoke about this to the Duke of Ormond this day: he seems to be very zealous in granting me his protection: he said it would be well to have the Queen spoke to. The rest I leave to my good friend. I hate repetitions, except it be in assuring you of the sincerest gratitude a soul is capable of. I have often thought to have reason for flattering myself with my Lord Bolingbroke's protection.

(1712), September 24. Ghent.—General C. Sibourg to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Last night I returned to this town from Antwerp, where I went to find some good velvet, but there is none broader than three quarters of a Dutch ell, and of that breadth 26 Dutch ells will not be sufficient for a lady's mantua and petticoat. The ladies here 36. I would buy none, fearing the narrow velvet would not please. Pray send me your orders. I have bought snuff and handkerchiefs; I wish I was to carry them to you this moment. This is now but a tedious place, since we have no business. They tell me old Palmer is very ill. Dear Sir, pray remember poor John in the time of need. I hear they have given away the rank of my regiment. How it is done, or by whom, I don't know; but this is the matter. By virtue of an order signed by King William and confirmed by her Majesty, those regiments raised in England took post of those raised in any other place, they only having their seniority by coming on the English establishment; by which I was before a good many. But how this has been altered I am not informed. You see, Sir, that I have reason to fear that after five or six and twenty years service, seven of them as a general officer, I am like to see myself with half pay as Colonel, and that for one year. You are near the Sun; I beg a little light and advice. You are the only friend I have any recourse to. 'Tis hard to starve when I see a crowd of young fellows assured of living at ease.

1712, September 27. Bucklebury.—Edward Hungerford to Vice Chamberlain Coke at Bath.

I am desired by my niece to acquaint you she received your historical letter of the place where you are, and is much concerned she is not able

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to answer herself. . . . In your return with your lady from the Bath, she hopes you will be as good as your word, and take Bucklebury in your way. Pray be pleased to salute the Cardinal in her Ladyship's name, and trouble him with the kind remembrance of her amanuensis and his brother bachelor. And if you should all happen to join in a visit to the melancholy lady of this mansion, it will be a mighty aggravation of the favour both to her Ladyship and her unworthy scribe, but your most humble servant.

1712–13, January 12. Probus.—Dr. William Smyth to (no address).

I return you my hearty thanks for your care about my own concern, as well as what relates to our borough (Grampound). Mr. Hughes sent me word that long looked for was come: he was going to Mr. Philip Hawkins to have a warrant filled up on the special writ, and was in hopes to serve the law on the late pretended Mayor. Mr. Nicholas Herle came to my house last night on his way to Truro, and there at sessions to enter in his office. . . . I hope you'll pardon the importunity of the triumvirate, and construe our earnestness to proceed from our zeal to support my Lord (Lansdown's) interest, and to frustrate Mr. Bus . . . n's (Boscawen's) designs in our corporation. What progress we make shall constantly be made known to you: and we shall request you to continue your hearty concern for our borough: your diligence and application having this very day given us new spirits and put our hearts at ease. My Lord's interest is what we chiefly aim at: but that Mr. B. may be baffled we shall spare no pains. Pray our duties to my Lord. My thanks and service to Mr. Coke when you wait on him again.

1712–3, February 20. Deal.—Robert Littill to the Rt. Hble. Mr. Coke, Vice Chamberlane, at his lodgings in St. James's House, London.

I have not yet been on board by reasen of the bad weather: but I have seen the Captain on shore, who promises me all the conveniency the ship will allow. Captain Paddon is to command the ships bound on this expedition: he is in the *Ruby* riding here in the Downs. I beg you will be pleased to get an order out from the Admiralty Board directed for Captain Paddon to provide for me as Lieutenant the first vacancy as falls in the voyage. Pray direct for me on Board the *Feversham* in the Downs.

1712–3, February 23. Blockley.—Colonel Henry Hunt to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain to Her Majesty, at his lodgings in St. James's, London.

There is a plate of between 20*l.* and 30*l.* to be run for at Salisbury the 18th of next month, only one heat, ten stone, and a guinea the entrance. I don't look upon the match in Derbyshire to be any trial for your horse: therefore, if you think fit, I'll go with him to Salisbury, where we shall see what we may expect from him. I think you can never have a trial cheaper, but I shall observe your commands. I find I am not so happy as to have the Queen's leave yet, and the Captain that is to succeed me will not lay out a penny till he has his commission, so the service will suffer if the troop's not in order. Therefore I beg the favour that you'll do me the favour to forward it, for I would now willingly know the Queen's resolution about it.

1712–3, February 16. Probus near Grampound.—Dr. William Smyth to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I had the honour to be intimately acquainted with Mr. James Buller deceased and was at his house when Mr. Alexander Pendarves desired

him to recommend your honour to Grampond, which he did by commanding me to signify the same to the Borough. Soon after he died. Then I acquainted his heir, Mr. John Buller of Morval, that his nephew had recommended Mr. Coke to Grampound, and desired he would do the same. He did so, and I attended the election; and after the election gave every one of your friends a pair of mourning gloves. I wrote Mr. Buller that your honour was unanimously chosen, and desired his letter of thanks to the town, which was accordingly sent. I only mention this to your honour, that it may be advisable to compliment the old gentleman, and to thank him for his last favour, and to request him to join with my Lord Lansdowne in his recommendation of your honour again. Not that we need his help; but a letter may be of service, and may restrain three of the magistrates from acting against my Lord's interest. The cause of Grampound must be tried before a judge that is no friend to . . . . or perhaps Fletcher will make no plea to the declaration: if so we are at a loss, and so must try other ways and means: and Mr. Buller can certainly influence the present Mayor and his brethren in iniquity. I sometime since intimated this to my Lord. And now, Sir, I return you my hearty thanks for your most obliging letter, and for the trouble you've taken in qualifying me to be more serviceable to my neighbours here below, and my noble friends above. I must own I have retained a secret veneration for your person, ever since I heard Mr. Pendarves say to Mr Buller, that you was the only man that could be entrusted to deliver those secret messages to the Queen, by which prudent management, under God, we are now happy in a faithful and wise ministry and a loyal House of Commons. I must likewise acknowledge that I truly love and honour my good Lord Lansdowne, for whose good and welfare I am not only obliged in duty to pray, as having received so many favours from his Lordship, and do now stand happily related to his Lordship; but because I have made this observation to myself, that whenever it went well with the Granvilles, it went well with the Church of England, but when that illustrious family were obscured, or had not the smiles of the Court, it was then the Church laboured under her greatest struggles and difficulties. Our churches in Cornwall retain a letter from the blessed Martyr, King Charles, setting forth the great loss sustained by the death of Sir Bevil Granville; as though he had foreseen that the death of such a General and branch of that family was the presage, or forerunner, of the downfall of monarchy and episcopacy. Now, Sir, well knowing what good services you have done in being an instrument in rescuing us from the jaws of a devouring faction, I was obliged by all the ties of interest, principle, and love to our happy establishment, to serve you cheerfully and heartily, and to leave no stone unturned to secure your next election. And what could I do less than promote my Lord Lansdowne's interests? for should the Whigs ever again get the ascendant, they would insult his person, roast the honest clergy, and bring the Church into extreme danger. So that self preservation, and a real concern for the good of Great Britain, and the regard I owe to my mother, the Church of England, and the allegiance due to the best of Queens, did move me to exert all my strength and ability to make Grampond again happy by being represented by your honour. Sir, I have only done my duty, satisfied my conscience, and given my Lord a small grateful acknowledgment of his great kindness to me, by endeavouring to put our neighbouring boroughs under his Lordship's patronage, and continuing our corporation in great repute, by being honoured with such a burgess as Mr. Coke. I am so sensible of your favours, that I will not omit any future opportunity to complete the undertaking of myself and colleagues, and to give you more pregrant

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testimony, that you was not much mistaken when your honour thought fit to oblige, worthy Sir, your most faithful, thankful, and obedient servant. I humbly beg your honour to join with my Lord in procuring a small place for one Mr. Cary. Mr. Vincent has a petition signed by many of my Lord's friends in Mr. Cary's behalf.

1712–3, March 5. (Portsmouth.)—Lieut. Robert Littill to the Rt. Hble. the Vice Chamberlain at his lodgings in St. James's House, London.

Captain Paddon sailed for Plymouth to get all the ships ready that was bound for Lisbon. We in company with H.M.'s ship *Rye* Galley put in here to see if any ships for those parts was here. We are now in a readiness to sail, but it blows very hard. Captain Paddon is still at Plymouth, where I hope he has received the order you was pleased to promise me. I have a cabin on board here, and live very happy, until your goodness will think of something better.

1713, May 4.—The manner of proclaming the Peace with France as it was ordered by Her Majesty in Council.

The Peace to be proclaimed on horseback at St. James's Gate and then they proceed in manner following.

A Detachment of the Horse Granadiers.

Officers of the Steward's Court of Westminster.

Knight Marshall Men.

Knight Marshall. Steward of Westminster. High Bailiff of Westminster.

Queen's Trumpets.

Serjeant Trumpet bearing his mace.

Serjeants at Arms with their maces. } Pursuivant at Arms. { Serjeants at Arms with their maces.

A Serjeant at Arms. Kings of Arms. A Serjeant at Arms.

The Horse Guard.

In this manner they proceed to Temple Bar where they are received by the Lord Mayor Aldermen Recorder and Sheriffs of London on horseback attended as usual, and a little within the Gate they proclaim it a second time, after which they proceed in this manner.

Detachment of the Horse Granadiers.

Knight Marshall and his men.

The Queen's Trumpets.

Serjeant Trumpet bearing his mace.

Pursuivants at Arms.

Serjeants at Arms. Heralds of Arms. Serjeants at Arms.

A Serjeant at Arms. Kings of Arms. A Serjeant at Arms.

The City Officers and Attendants on foot. { The Sword Bearer. The Lord Mayor. } The City Officers and Attendants on foot.

Aldermen Recorder and Sheriffs in their places.

The Horse Guard.

Being come to the place where the Cross formerly stood at Cheapside over against Wood Street, they proclaim it a third time and lastly in like manner at the Royal Exchange at Change time.

1713, August 18. London.—Dr. William Smyth of Probus to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

How much my Lord Lansdowne's interest at Grampound has been supported by Mr. Roger Teage is well known to your honour. Ask that his brother John Teage may be moved from his place of Collector of Excise in Gloucestershire to a like place in Cornwall. Richard Davies lately an officer in Truro division for duties on hides &c. has been dismissed upon an information against him that he is indebted to tanners and tawers. He has sent up to the Board certificates of the tanners and tawers of his division that he is not indebted to them. He has enemies by making seizures, particularly upon Peter Herle of Grampound, Mr. Boscawen's tool, and pretended Mayor of Grampound. If honest men attack Mr. B.'s friends, a means is found to discharge them, and give their posts to his agents. It will be of mighty consequence that our friends be encouraged, the elections coming on again, by bringing back Mr. John Teage, and restoring the poor man Davies. I should be glad for my friends' interest in Tregony if Mr. Can's two sons in law, Henry Tredwen and Edward Richards could be made Boatmen at Penryn: and that Richard Andrew of Tregony could succeed Mr. Asterly as land waiter at St. Ives in Cornwall. I am likewise desired to solicit for one Nicholas Andrew to be Tidewaiter at Padstow in the room of R. Croker or W. Lock. There was a petition sent up, signed by many gentlemen and freeholders of Cornwall, in behalf of Mr. Nathaniel Cary, a relation of Mr. Cary of Clovelly, that my Lord Lansdowne would be pleased to procure some small place for him. I beg that he may be gratified, for he is in great distress, and has a great family. I was likewise solicited that Mr. Richard Weekes of my parish should be placed as an extraordinary man on shipboard. I think I have gone though all the matters given me in charge in behalf of my Cornish friends. I have to ask you that by your interest with the Board or with Mr. Harley you will please to remove Mr. Broughton, the present Collector of Excise for Cornwall to some other county. There are many of Mr. Boscawen's tools at St. Mawes and other places of our County, which are kept in their places, though they vote at every election against the friends of the Queen and Ministry. Many honest Cornish electors sincerely wish Mr. Boscawen's creatures discharged, and loyal persons put in their places, before the elections. Pray exert your interest with my Lord Treasurer on this point. I think this is sufficient for Cornwall: only I wish my Lord and you would forthwith agree upon a good partner at Grampound; and that two substantial persons be recommended for Tregony. I beg leave I may intercede for my own two brothers, who live in London. They both were brought up to the drawing and flatting gold and silver wire; which trade being much decayed, and having many children, are reduced to great straits. For one I would only ask a warder's place in the Tower of London: for the other any place here, about London: he is truly honest, truly loyal. I have my only son with me, and I would gladly place him in the Charterhouse School, if you would speak to any of the Governors in his behalf. And when opportunity presents, I flatter myself that my good Lord and Mr. Coke will procure me some additional preferment to what I have already. Probably your Royal Mistress may have some to bestow in a short time, which I may have though I live in Cornwall.

(1713?)—"Order for posting the Sentinels at Windsor upon the Birthday." Sentinels to be posted by the Foot Guards.

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At the Castle—

At the Iron Gate—a Sergeant and 12 men	12
In the Kitchen Court	4
At the stairs of the Green Cloth Tower	2
At the Ladies of the Bedchambers' stairs	2
At the backstairs to the Gallery	2
At the Queen's backstairs	2
At Mrs. Danvers's stairs	2
At the Keep	2
At the Old Council Chamber stairs	2
At the Maids of Honour's stairs	2
At the Lord Treasurer's stairs	2
At Mrs. Cooper's stairs	2
At the Lord Masham's stairs	2
At the Green Cloth stairs	2
At the Bishop of Ossory's stairs	2
At the Lord Bolingbroke's Office stairs	2
	44

At the Garden House. In the morning—

At the fore door a Sergeant and 11 men	12
At the door to the Kitchen Court	6
At the Duchess of Somerset's door	2
	20

As soon as the Company is dismissed at the Garden House—

At the fore door	6
At the door to the Kitchen Court	4
At the Duchess of Somerset's door	2
	12

A Subaltern Officer and 30 men to remain near the Garden House all day.

The Guards at the Queen's Garden House and at the Iron Gate to keep the passage clear of ordinary people.

The Sentinels at the several Stairs to keep the Stairs clear from any ordinary people that don't belong to the families there, and to be assistant to prevent any disorder.

Yeomen of the Guard to be posted—

At the Castle—

At the foot of the Great Stairs	6	
At the top of the Great Stairs	4	
At the Queen's backstairs	1	
At the backstairs by the Ladies of the Bedchambers' Lodgings	1	
At the backstairs by the Gallery	1	
In the Privy Chamber by the Gallery door	2	
	15	15

In the Garden House—		
In the passage at the top of the stairs -	2	
At the bottom of the same stairs - -	2	
At the back stairs - - - -	1	
	5	5
		20

1713–4, January 4. Cockpit.—John Evans to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have found a house, with the approbation of the Commissioners [of Commerce] that will do: it is next door to Newbourg House in the Park. The rent is 100*l.* for six months furnished. Considering the expense that would be in furnishing from the Great Wardrobe, I believe your Honour will think it much the cheaper way to take it furnished, and thereby save more money to the Queen. I do find by the Commissioners' Secretary that they have a great mind to Mr. Craig's house, for he told me today it would serve for another office, after they had done with it, which revived in my thoughts your Honour's opinion that it would introduce Lord Mar into the Plantation Office at Whitehall, by removing that office to Craig Court.

1713–4, January 19. Cockpit.—John Evans to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have spoke to Mr. Holbeck about Mr. Ireland's [of the Wardrobe] money; who has promised to stop it. Enclosed is the Managers of the Playhouse Remonstrance, and two letters for Monsieur Rosencrans and C[l] Vandernath's presents.

1713–4, January 25. Christ Church, Oxon.—W. Stratford to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

I beg leave to return my sincere thanks for all the favours I received at Windsor, and for the very easy conveyance you were pleased to provide for me to Reading. I must own I was somewhat out of countenance at the state of it, and those I met were surprised to see one of my cloth so accommodated. I must leave the Lady of Bucklebury to express her own thanks for the favour of your letter. . . . I believe you must be content to hear from her, and not expect to see her this winter, unless you go to her. I have sent you the Chronological Tables: they were published by one Marshall, but they were drawn up by the Bishop of Worcester, and are the most exact that ever yet came out. I have not yet sent the Ortelius, because I found mine was not his Geography with maps, but only his Geographical Dictionary without any maps; which would have been of no use to you, and there are much better Dictionaries since his time.

1713–4, January 31. Windsor Castle.—Lord Bolingbroke to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

Sir I have just time to acquaint you that my Lord Treasurer would have you immediatly hier Craig house for six months certain, with a power to continue it a longer time, if ocation; or any other house that is convenient for the Commissioners that are appointed to settle the Treaty of Commerce.

1714, August 18. Suffolk Street.—Earl of Suffolk (Lord Marshal) to Mr. Vice Chamberlain Coke.

Sir, the solemnity of the Interment of the late Queen being to be performed (pursuant to the Resolution of the Lords Justices in Council)

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with great Respect and Decency, you are appointed to assist the two Duchesses who are to bear the Chief Mourner's Train on this Occasion, and to meet in the House of Peers at Westminster on Sunday the 22nd instant, at the Hour of six in the Evening.

(1714 about), August 13.—Lady Catharine Clark to Mr. Vice Chamberlain Coke.

. . . I thank God I have mended ever since I desired Dr. Ratchcliff's opinion for my health: but my weakness and disorder is so apt to return that I thought it convenient to have his directions by me; which I find is a particular favour, granted I do suppose wholly upon Mrs. Betty Coke's account, who stood very much my friend in that, as also in every thing else, wherein I have had great experience of her kindness. I am much concerned for your lady's indisposition, but wish her a speedy recovery, and yourself and daughters free from any attacks of the like nature, together with a good journey to the Bath, and all the benefit that place can possibly afford. All this neighbourhood are confirmed in their wishes of waiting upon you at Melborne the next month, by the assurance Colonel Hunt, who is now here, has given them of your coming about that time into the country. I suppose you may have heard before now, how victorious your horse has been at Weston Race, and gained such immortal honour as to be reckoned amongst the jockeys as the best horse in England. There was a noble appearance of gentlemen, and all the ladies of that side the country; and though my health did not permit me to be in the number of spectators, yet I may brag I was in those who betted their money on your side, and must own I was particularly pleased in your good fortune.

. . .

1714, October 1.—Earl of Radnor to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Sir, I was to wait on you at your lodgings, but had not the good fortune to find you at home. It was to acquaint you that King William gave that little lodging to Mrs. Aspinwall on the account of the sufferings of her father, Sir Ralph Freeman. It never belonged to any office, as I shall inform you, when I have the honour to see you.

1714, October.—A List of the several Lodgings in St. James's House and the Persons by whom possessed. [Indorsed by Vice-Chamberlain Coke, "List of Persons lodged in St. James's before his Majesty's arrival."]

My Lord Chamberlain. Two Rooms under the King's Lodgings.
My Lord Oxford, formerly Col. Griffith's, Officer of the Greencloth.
Mr. Vice Chamberlain.
Mr. Scarburgh, Officer of the Greencloth.
My Lord De la Warr, a Large Apartment.
My Lord Masham's Office, as Cofferer.
Bishop of London two Rooms, possessed by one of the Chapel.
Mr. Lucas, Keeper of the Chapel Closet.
Mr. Faverall's lodgings, the first Master Cook.
Mr. Hounslef, the second Master Cook.
Mr. Dissell, the third Master Cook.
Mr. Buckholt, Yeoman of the Robes to his late Royal Highness the Prince.
Mr. Hipseley (as looks after the cesspools).
Mrs. Arundell, Bedchamber Woman to Queen Anne.
Mrs. Hartstongue, Bedchamber Woman, keeps the key.
Maids of Honour. Six Lodgings.

Mr. Sherrard, Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber.
Mrs. Hopgood, her husband dead, belonged to Queen Anne.
Mrs. Dole, her husband was a Cook to the Duke of Gloster.
Mrs. Foiston, Necessary Woman.
Mr. Coleman, Officer in the Woodyard.
Mrs. Moore, Sempstress to Queen Anne; her lodging is cleared, but has the key.
His Majesty's Chaplains' Dining Room.
Clerk of the Kitchen's Office.
Removing Wardrobe.
Spicery, Ewry, Pantry, Scullery, Scalding House, Flesh Larder, and Laundress.
Sweeper of the Courts.
Mr. Brown, Under Housekeeper.

(Note by Vice Chamberlain Coke.)—"Lodgings granted by K. William to my Lady Freman and her daughter, upon account of many thousand pounds lent to King Charles and a considerable estate spent in his Majesty's service, King Charles the Second: of which my Lord Radnor gave an account to Monsr. Cranenburg and Baron Bothmar."

1714, November 12.—Vice Chamberlain Coke to the Earl of Oxford. (Draft.)

My Lord, Hearing your Lordship would be willing, if you could have the Charcoal House and the ground it stands upon, to build your Library, to part with the piece of ground which goes to the new buildings, which would be convenient to his Majesty's service, to make some cellars and other conveniences, which are wanting now to the family. I beg the favour to know your Lordship's mind upon it; that it may be put in a way of being exchanged to the advantage of his Majesty's service, and your accommodation.

1714, November 12.—Earl of Oxford to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Ever since Mr. Lowman spoke to me, I have been confined to my chamber by excesive pain, which hath hindered me waiting upon you, on Mr. Lowman's proposal; for I will in no way be wanting in anything I can to accommodate his Majesty's service. My Library being all MSS., the Crown and the Nation have more real concern in them than myself. And having cost me so many thousand pounds, I was willing to have them in a place of security. It made me think of buying Lord Fitzharding's, and building a Library there, of which I had a draught. The Queen forbid me treating there, and ordered me to buy this, and promised me a lease, and ground to build. But God took away the good Queen; and I have been at great expense to make the house habitable, which I intend to leave now to my son; and would willingly secure the Library, which if lost is not to be restored. This is the truth of my case: and I hope by Monday to be able to wait upon you, because I would lose no time in retiring to the country.

1714, December 10.—Vice Chamberlain Coke to the Earl of Oxford. (Draft.)

I am desired to acquaint your Lordship that his Majesty would buy your term of the whole Grant, and that your Lordship is desired to make your demand as to the price. I mentioned what your Lordship desired as to the occasion you should have to keep it till Lady Harriet Harley had lain in: but I could not tell the time you reckoned that would be. I beg the favour of your Lordship to let me have your answer as to these particulars, and your commands in anything else to my power.

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1714, December 13.—Earl of Oxford to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Sir, Your letter found me under a relapse, not having been out of the house since Tuesday last, and my hands have been so swelled I could not hold a pen until now; which I make use of to give a distinct answer to the three particulars you mention in your letter.

The first is, 1. That it is his Majesty's pleasure to purchase my whole Grant &c.

I can answer this in no better terms than I have done before—the whole, or part, is at his Majesty's command.

2. As to the time of my daughter's lying in.

She reckons the end of January, and is immediately coming to town. Young women are not so exact in reckoning of their first child, but it cannot be much difference, and after that is over, no time will be lost in going out.

3. As to the price.

I cannot tell whether it will be decent for me to make a price to his Majesty: but as I would not ask a farthing more of the Crown than it would be worth to any private person, so I presume upon his Majesty's justice that he would not have me take less.

The prime cost was 3,500*l.* I have spent near nine months in repairing it, which has cost more than new building it would have done, as will appear upon view; besides what is done to beautify it within, and to secure it by taking all the timber out of the chimneys and walls.

I am a little cautious in naming a price, because, when I proposed an exchange so many hundred pounds to his Majesty's advantage, it was not taken as I intended it.

However, I will examine all my bills of charges, and when anyone (as is customary) is appointed to treat, I hope my proposals will appear very reasonable, being resolved to found them or those accounts of what it stands me in.

1714–5, January 7.—Vice Chamberlain Coke to the Earl of Oxford. (Draft.)

My Lord, Yesterday my Lord Halifax spoke to me to make this proposal to your Lordship—that his Majesty pay the 3,500*l.*, the first purchase money, and interest of that sum from the time your Lordship paid the money to the Duke of Grafton to the time of his Majesty's purchasing it of your Lordship, and likewise whatever your Lordship have laid out in repairing and fitting the house to the condition it is now in, as it shall appear by the bills, and the inventory of what you propose to leave in the house. If your Lordship approve of this, which I think is the ground on which you founded the demand of the 7,000*l.*, and will order anybody to prepare the bills, there will be one appointed, with the person you shall name, to prepare everything with all expedition to finish this affair as soon as possible, and I hope to your Lordship's entire satisfaction.

1714–5, January.—A paper indorsed by Vice Chamberlain Coke, "List of Pictures that were in the Earl of Oxford's Lodgings at St. James's."

1. Over the Chimney Piece—The Princess of Orange, half length, by Wissing.
2. } Two Seaports by Danckert.
3. }
4. The Duke of Buckingham's Family, by Honthorst.
5. A Diana by Gennari.

6. A Roman.
7. A half length French Lady with a horn.
8. A half length Lady Abbess—the manner of Sir Antony More.
9. The Stoning of St. Stephen—in two colours.
10. St. George a killing the Dragon.
11. A Madonna with St. Catherine and St. Jerome—after Corregio.
12. A Woman a holding a Standard.
13. A Sleeping Venus with Cupids—by Gennari.
14. Pomfret Castle.
15. A Head of the Lady Maria Henrietta.
16. An Eropia (Europa?)
17. Our Saviour Scourged.
18. Three Ladies Heads in one piece.
19. A Landscape with a Bridge.
20. A Sea Monster with seven breasts.
21. A Madonna with St. John when a child.
22. A Young Man's Head, in red slashed sleeves.
23. Actæon and Diana.
24. A Sea Piece.
25. Our Saviour a curing the blind.
26. A French Gentleman's Head with a point cravat.
27. A Seaport by Danckert.
28. A St. John with a Lamb—by Corregio.
29. A Triumph by Hell Brueghel.
30. A Ship piece in distemper.
31. A Soldier's Head—large life—with his hand on his beard.
32. A French Lady's Head—three-quarter.

1715, August 7 (N.S.) Bruxelles. T. Kennedy to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have received a letter from Baron Bothmar, who has done me the honour to interest himself to obtain of his Majesty the present that is usually given, which Mrs. Kennedy should have had by the death of Mr. Vrybergue: and he informs me he has had the King's orders for it, and that you were so kind as to assist him in it. Which is the reason I take the liberty to assure you of Mrs. Kennedy's and my most grateful acknowledgments for this favour: and if there be anything we can be serviceable to you and your lady at Bruxelles, I hope you will honour us with your commands.

1715, December 16. St. James.—De Robethon.

I do hereby certify that when the assignation was presented to the King to have Jane Spencer paid out of the German cash, for cleaning several apartments in the Palace, his Majesty refused to sign it, and said she ought to be paid out of the English establishment, as well as the rest of those women. And since the others, as Mrs. Peach and the like, have got warrants in order to receive money at Christmas, I hope the Lord Chamberlain will be so kind as to order a warrant to be prepared for her, and that she may also be reimbursed of her bills, being out of pocket for several little things all which I apprehend to be just and conform to the King's intentions.

(*Inclosure.*—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales—for cleaning his apartments 3 days. For Count Platten—7 rooms since the King came. For Secretary Rupton—6 rooms. Mr. Hatrofe 2 rooms).

1715.—Goods furnished at St. James's Palace by the Groom Porter.

To the Countess of Schulenberg; to the young Princes; to the Prince's Dressing Room; to the Lord Powletts at Somerset House;

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to Mrs. Clayton; to the Prince of Wales's New Apartment; to the Chocolate Room; to the Duchess of St. Albans; to a Lady's Room above; to the Foreign Council; to the Semstress; to the Young Princess' New Rooms; to the Lady Governess; to the Nursery; to the young Lady Schulenberg; to the Countess of Kielmanseck; to Mr. Lochman; to Mustapha Turk; to Ulrich; to the Prince's Guard Chamber; to the Waiters' Eating Room; to the Pages, Mr. Pursell and Mr. Brickman; to the Womens' Eating Room; to the Vice Chamberlain Poultry &c.; to the Vestry of the Chapel.

(No date.)—A List of the Barges that attended His Majesty to Gravesend.

The King's Shallop	The Treasury of the Navy's 8 Oared Barge
The King's 12 Oared Barge	The Office of Ordnance 8 Oared Barge
The King's 6 Oared Barge	The Navy 6 Oared Barge
The Master's 6 Oared Barge	The Admiralty 6 Oared Barge
The Master's 4 Oared Barge	Sir William Windham's 4 Oared Boat

And 5 Galleys for the Servants and Baggage.

1716, May 14.—A paper endorsed by Vice Chamberlain Coke "Lord Harley's desire about his ground at St. James's."

Lord Harley having upon several occasions accommodated the Officers of his Majesty's Works and others for his Majesty's service with the use of several parts of the ground at St. James's within his Grant: but sheds and other the like buildings having been lately erected upon the said ground without his leave first asked, or knowledge: his Lordship desires such entries may be made in the books of the Office of Works, and signification thereof sent him in writing as may be sufficient for preserving his Lordship's property in all parts of his Grant, and that the said ground may be delivered up to his Lordship when he shall desire it.

1716, July 16. Queen Street, near So-hoe.—Dr. William Smyth to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have been many months in town, and must beg your pardon that I have not waited on you. But really, Sir, I have met with many great disappointments, and because I could not appear before my friends with as good an interest as formerly, I have forborn to visit them: though I persuade myself I should have been received by you, with as much kindness as when I supported your election at Grampound. I shall speedily return to Cornwall, but before I go I beg the favour to let me know when it suits with your conveniency that I may wait on you, to crave your advice and assistance in reference to some matters of consequence to me and my family, who must inevitably be ruined, should our good old friend miscarry by his close confinement. I suppose Mr. Southwell is in town; and his election which was so burdensome must bear hard on me, if I have not the monies repaid: at least some part to supply my present very urgent occasions. But if Mr. Southwell will not part with any more as a debt due from him, I hope you will prevail with him to lend me some, till my Lord is at liberty.

1716, September 26.—James Brydges, Earl of Carnarvon, to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Sir, I am under great confusion to think I have been so long in answering your last favour: but I am confident you have a juster opinion of me than to impute it to any want of respect I can be capable of towards one, with whom I have had so long a friendship, and for

whom I have so perfect a value. The money you remitted on Mr. Hammond's account hath been paid to Colonel Brown, and I believe came very seasonably to him, for the sending his son over. The Prince set out on Menday from Hampton Court, for Portsmouth, and took a little tour through Kent and Sussex. His first day's journey was 57 miles, the next 56: the third day he was to rest at Portsmouth, and comes back on Thursday to Hampton Court. I hear it talked as if the Princess had an inclination to lie in at Hampton Court: but the inconveniences attending it will be so many and great, that I cannot but think those who have the honour to be about Her Royal Highness will use their utmost to dissuade her. I return my thanks for your obliging invitation into Derbyshire. I wish I had leisure enough to accept it, for I know nobody whose conversation would make me pass my time more agreeably: but my misfortune is to be detained in or near the town by business, which is of consequence enough to take up all my thoughts and time.

1716, December 15. Hanover.—Madame de Kielmensegge to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Monsieur, Vous ne vous dementés pas à mon égard: vous continués vos mannieres obligeantes dans l'absence, comme vous les avés toujours eu pendant que j'étois à Londre. Je ne puis assés vous temoigner combien je suis sensible à toutes vos honnêtetés. Les attantions que vous me marqués prouve le veritable caractaire d'un ami. J'en ay toute la reconnoissance possible, et je m'estimerois tres heureuse, si j'etois jamais en êtat de vous en temoigner une partie. Faute de ce pouvoir, vous reçevrés, j'espere, mes remerciements, et serés persuadé que quoy qu' impuissante à vous temoigner mes obligations, elles n'en sont pas moins fortes, pour cela. Je suis tres persuadée, Monsieur, qu'il n'a pas tenu à vous que ma maison de Londre et celle de Kengsington ne soyent deja préte; mais il n'est que juste que les petits marchent apres les grands. Je ne croy pas que quoy que le voyage du Roy soit assuré qu'il puisse être a Londre avant la mi Jenvier, vieux stile. Ainsi j'espere que tout sera fini. Les uns disent que S. M. va demeurer à Kengsington, les autres disent à St. James. Si c'est le dernier, je laisserai mes chembres commes elles êtoient, et la nouvelle chembre restera Dressing room, jusqu'à ce quelle soit assés sêche pour que j'y puisse coucher sans risque. Pour ce qui est de l'apartement de Mr. de Hattorf à St. James, j'espere qu'il y renoncera de bon cœur, jusqu'à ce qu'il en ait un meilleur: cela m'a du moins paru ainsy: et j'en parlerai à S. M. qui en fera sans doute êcrire au Duc de Bolton. Je vous prierai en ce cas, mon cher Monsieur, d'en hâter l'execution. A l'egard des meubles de Kengsington, les plus simples me suffiront: la maison n'est pas assés belle, pour la parer beaucoup; et d'ailleurs le moins de dépense et d'embaras que je cause m'est toujours le plus agréable. Il faut diviser la maison de Kengsington en trois petits apartements, ce qui se poura fort bien avec la nouvelle chembre: dans chaque apartement un lit, soit pour ma fille, ou pour quelque amie: et autant de lits pour les domestiques, qu'il y en a dans ma maison de St. James, ce que Mr. de Grave, page du back stairs de S. M., poura vous informer. En cas que la nouvelle chembre à Kengsington ne fût pas prête, et que le Roy y allât loger, je vous demenderois toujours en grace que le reste fût meublé, et en ordre: mais encore une fois le plus simplement que my lord Duc et vous le jugerés apropos. Pourvu qu'on soit proprement, c'est tout ce qu'on peut exiger. Excusés toutes les peines que je vous donne, mon cher Monsieur. J'espere de pouvoir bientot vous en remercier de bouche, et avoir le plaisir d'embrasser Mrs. Kook, que je

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vous prie de saluer de ma part. Mr. de Kielmensegge me charge aussi de vous faire bien des compliments et amitiés de la sienne; et moy, je vous prie de croire que l'on ne peut être plus parfaitement que je la suis, Monsieur, votre tres humble et tres obeissante servante. Je vous laisse le maitre de comdamner telles fenetres que vous jugerés apropos dans ma nouvelle chembre.

(1716.)—Peers, Peeresses, Privy Councillors, summoned by Robert Burrell, James Cooke, Henry Waters, Robert Jenkinson and Adam Lysney, Grooms of the Great Chamber to His Majesty.

Living in St. James's Square and Leicester Fields.

Lord Belhaven
Lord Conway
Lord Herbert
Lord Leicester
Lord Lansdowne
Lord Hunsdon
Lord Gowran
Lord Fitzwilliam
Lord Cheney
Lord Molesworth.

The Pell Mell and all Westminster.

Duchess of Monmouth
General Earl
Duke of Schomberg
Lord Ferrers (at the Bath)
Lord Allington
Lady Effingham
Duke of Atholl
Lord Carleton
Duke and Duchess of Shrewsbury.
Duke and Duchess of Somerset
Mr. Southwell
Lords of the Admiralty
Lord Newburgh
Lady Dowager Portland
Lady Essex
Duke and Duchess of Richmond
Lord Loudoun (in Scotland)
Mr. Boscawen and his Lady
Lord and Lady Stanhope
Lord and Lady Rochester
Lady Dowager Oxford
Lord Scarsdale
Lord Lempster (?)
Lady Plymouth
Lord and Lady Halifax
Lord and Lady Abingdon
Lord and Lady Ashburnham.
Lord and Lady Lincoln
Lord Elford (?)
Lord Derby
Lord Willoughby
Lord Bingley
Archbishop of Canterbury
Bishop of Chester
„ Hereford
„ Lincoln
„ Rochester
„ Bristol
„ Gloucester
„ Peterborough
„ Llandaff.

Living in Covent Garden, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, Red Lion Square, Queen Square, Ormond Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and the Strand.

Lord Orford
Lord Thanet
Duchess Dowager of Rutland.
Lord Mountrath
Duke and Duchess of Montague
Bishop of Worcester
Duke and Duchess of Rutland
Lord Northampton
Lord Nottingham
Sir William Olds
Sir William Thomson
Lady Gainsborough
Lord Dundonald
Lord Castleton
Lady Robert Russell
Marquis of Lindsey
Lord Chancellor and Lady (Cowper).
Master of the Rolls
Lord Cardigan
Sir Edward Northey
Lord Clarendon
Lady Arlington
Bishop of London.

Duke of Montrose, Frith St.
Marquis of Annandale, Swallow St.
Earl of Sutherland, Marlborough St.
Earl of Bradford, Soho Square
Earl of Bute, Marlborough St.
Bishop of Sarum, Golden Square
Earl of Carnarvon, Albemarle St.
Lord Coningsby, Albemarle St.
Lord Foley, Soho Square
Earl of Holderness, New Buildings by Trinity Chapel.
Lord Harborough, Brewer St.
Earl of Jersey, Golden Square
Earl of Ilay, Marlborough St.
Lord Mansel, Soho Square
Lord Orrery, Glass-house St.
Lord Onslow, Marlborough St.
Lord Poulett, Albemarle St.
Lord Romney, Soho Square.
Earl of Suffolk, Poland St.
Earl of Salisbury, King Street, St. James's
Lord Teynham, Golden Square
Lord Warrington, Poland St.
Lord Windsor, Bond St.
Earl of Yarmouth, Marlborough St.
Lord Brooke
Lord North and Grey, Poland St.

Kensington and Chelsea.

Lord Chief Justice Parker, Kensington.
Lord Maynard, Kensington
Lady Torrington do.
Lady Pierrepont do.
Bishop of Bath and Wells, Kensington
Countess of Warwick do.
Lord Bartlett (?) do.
Bishop of Winchester, Chelsea
Lady Radnor, do.
Lady Ketley, do.
Countess of Lindsey do.
Marquis of Meermount (?) Brompton.
Countess of Shaftesbury, Gravel Pits, in Paddington Parish.

1717, August 29. Treasury Chambers.—Chris. Tilson to Viscount Stanhope.

Mr. Thomas, from the Earl of Oxford, was at the Office this morning to have acquainted your Lordships, in case you had been sitting, that his Lordship will have cleared the house at St. James's of all his goods on Saturday next. There is many glasses fitted to panels, locks to doors, with kitchen grates and other fixed furniture, that his Lordship will not take away, if so be the person who is to have possession shall think them useful, and will give such a price as any two indifferent persons shall value them at. I shall wait your Lordship's commands, for Mr. Thomas tells me that he, on my Lord Oxford's part, will comply with any commands of your Lordships that shall be signified by me.

1717, September 5. Whitehall.—C. Dalton to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I called yesterday at Somerset House with a design to acquaint you how the Greencloth do usurp upon my Lord Chamberlain. First in our diet—they give us what meat they please from the King's table, which are sometimes little better than garniture, as cold fish, Salamon Gundy and the like, so that really more than once we have had much ado to make a dinner. Our table never was upon this foot to eat after a dozen or fourteen people, nor ever had we any hunting dinners either in King William's or the late Queen's time, only a dish or two to the Pages of Honour that waited. Next they have taken away all the candles, both in the Privy and Presence Chamber: so that one Council night the Lords run their noses against the hangings. Nay the Duke of Kent refuses to give us a candle to light the King, which is my Lord Chamberlain's own candle, saying he goes in always privately, and all this by way of good husbandry upon us and our under officers, when not one under him loses the value of a halfpenny. So, Sir, if you please, when you have an opportunity, to represent this to my Lord Chamberlain, that he may assert his own right, and not suffer us to be governed by the Board of Greencloth. The Societies talked of representing this

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jointly to his Grace; but I, being obliged to go into the country, chose to do it in this way, for which I ask you a hundred pardons.

1717, September 5. Bishopston. — Duke of Newcastle to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Dear Sir,—The Serjeant at Arms attending the House of Commons being dead, and Sir John Stanley having informed me that the disposal of the office is in me, I have given it, if the King is so good as to approve of it, to my particular friend, the bearer, Mr. Thomas Spence. Sir J. Stanley has this morning sent me down the instruments for me to sign; but I would not think of doing it without having the King's leave. The favour that I would beg of you [is] that you would (with my most humble duty to his Majesty) acquaint him with the state of the case, and beg that he would give me leave to signify his pleasure to the Attorney General to prepare a Bill for a patent for Mr. Spence, who (if you will be so good as to let the King know) is one of a very considerable family in this country, always most zealous in his Majesty's interest, and for whose integrity and good behaviour in his office I hold myself responsible. You will be so kind as to let the King know that it has always been in the gift of the Lord Chamberlain, but that I would not in this, or anything else, proceed without knowing his Majesty's pleasure. I hope you will forgive this trouble, for the bearer is one for whom I am very much concerned, and your favour to me in his behalf shall be ever acknowledged. I hope you will let him know the King's pleasure as soon as you can. I should be glad if you could give a guess how long the King thinks of staying at Hampton Court, for I am just come up upon the Downs, and should be glad of a little hunting, before my return to Hampton Court: but would by no means stay so long, as not to be able to attend a considerable time upon his Majesty before he leaves Hampton Court. I wish you would be so good as to make my compliments to the King, and obtain his leave that I may remain here some little time longer, and then I will come and relieve you, and stir no more till his Majesty returns to London. I heartily thank you for all your favours, and am with great truth, dear Sir, your most faithful humble servant, Holles Newcastle.

1717, September 7 and 17.—William Thomas to the Rt. Honble. the Vice Chamberlain.

I suppose that by this time the several valuations of the goods agreed to be left in Lord Oxford's house will have been transmitted to you by the officer of the Works that took down the prices. I took notice to you and Sir J. Stanley what disadvantage it would be to his Lordship to have them valued by persons that are to furnish new in case the prices they set be not agreed to. This has appeared through the whole, but in nothing more extravagantly than in the things furnished by the Serjeant Plumber, who values them at about one fourth part of what Lord Oxford paid him for them. But as the rest of the new goods have been valued at about 20 per cent. loss, I think that a sufficient abatement in the cisterns and other leaden utensils. I proposed the same to Sir J. Stanley with respect to the glasses, that are now valued at 140*l.* and that stood his Lordship in above 225*l.* But I desire that you and Sir John Stanley will be pleased finally to settle the matter without waiting for any further orders from Lord Oxford, who I am satisfied will approve of whatever you shall determine in it.

1717.—The Memorial of Henry Wise and Joseph Carpenter.

Several complaints having been made about the service of herbs and other things from his Majesty's Gardens into the Kitchen and other Offices for his Majesty's use. The fact is as followeth—

In his late Majesty King William's time, the Gardens contained about 73 acres, for keeping of which was allowed 4,168*l.* 19*s.* per annum, and 831*l.* 1*s.* per annum to artificers for garden repairs. The Kitchen Gardens then were as much as now, and the King had no more than to serve for 6 plates a day of herbs, salads &c., out of them.

Her late Majesty Queen Anne by several new additions increased the Gardens from 73 to upwards of 140 acres, and then to reduce the expense, agrees with Mr. Wise to keep the whole for less than 3,000*l.* per annum, the Kitchen Gardens being still the same. The produce of fruits, roots and herbs of all kinds that were of use, were constantly served in for her Majesty's use.

After his Majesty King George's accession, the contract for keeping the Gardens was renewed upon the same foot, and the produce of the Kitchen Gardens has all along been served in to the King, Prince and Princesses' use, with a great deal more that has been bought by Mr. Wise, and things raised at Brompton Park. A short abstract of two years' service for the King and Princes only, (exclusive of all others, which is not a little) is here subjoined.

The Kitchen Gardens, all that can be cultivated and cropped with eatables, we believe does not exceed seven acres of the worst land that can be for that purpose, being naturally a poor dry burning sand: and was it seventy instead of seven, 'twould be impossible to equal the markets (or rather we may say, all the gardens 20 miles round London) or to have perhaps anything so early. In such a compass as twenty miles there is land and places particularly proper for each thing, besides hundreds of people endeavouring to be the first in the market. Yet it will appear by the following account that his Majesty is continually supplied by his Kitchen Gardens with what they can be made to produce, notwithstanding the smallness of them, and badness of the soil.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
From 28 May 1715 to 28 May 1717 were delivered from the Gardens for the use of his Majesty, the Prince, Princess, and young Princesses 4368 baskets of fruit of all sorts at 2*s.* 6*d.* per basket, which, if to be bought, some of them would have cost three or four times the money: and 373 melons at 1*s.* each early and late - - -	546	0	0
Delivered within the aforesaid time for the use of the King Prince and Royal Family 1684 Salads. Above 6000 Cabbage Lettuces. 3541 Cucumbers. 1088 Artichokes. 4668 Celery and Endive. 1351 Bundles of Asparagus with Radishes, Peas, Beans, French Beans, Carrots, Savoys, Cauliflowers, Onions, Sweet Herbs, Borecole and great parcels of Flowers of all kinds for Basons, Bough Pots and Chimneys &c. at the common rates, when cheapest of all worth at least - - - - - -	250	0	0
	796	0	0
All the Fruit and Kitchen Gardens including Walks Alleys Dunghill places &c. are about 10 acres at 20*l.* per acre per annum keeping for two years comes to 400*l.*: and each acre of Kitchen Garden costs us between 30*l.* and 40*l.* per annum - - -	400	0	0
	£396	0	0

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Within our contract for keeping the Gardens is particularly mentioned that we shall be allowed the charges for transporting the fruits, salads, herbs &c. from one Palace to another: which allowance has been stopped ever since Midsummer 1715, though always paid before. It is all money out of pocket, and as much our due as any other part of the Agreement.

1718, January 31. (N. S.) Messina.—Thomas Chamberlayne and Ra. Lee to the Honble. —— Coke, Esquire, in London.

The Marquis Trevi sent our Consul from Palermo two marble tables, with a request he'd forward them to your Honour per first English ship bound home: they are put on board this Paige Galley, Captain Goldsborough. These ministers have so much value for his Sicilian Majesty's customs, they could not be prevailed on to ship them free.

1718, July 30. Kensington.—Lochman to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

Whereas his Excellency Baron of Bernstorff is wanting for the use of his apartments at Hampton Court the following furniture, viz.

Four sets of window curtains and valence, of crimson camlet, or flowered stuff, the valence 20 inches deep, and 7 feet 6 inches long, and the curtains to be $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards long, and one cover over the dressing table of the same.
Two Presses for clothes.
One ditto for linen, with scolves (shelves?).
One ditto for the Confectioner, with scolves.
A Teaboard under with a press and above with scolves and with doors.
One dining table for ten people.
One ditto for six people.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order me to acquaint you thereof, and that his will and pleasure is that the above mentioned furniture may be ordered and finished so soon as possible, and be ready before his Majesty goes there.

1718, September 10. Paris.—Michael Kinkaid to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain to his Majesty, Hampton Court.

I have been so much taken up with seeing the curiosities of this place and Versailles that I could not inform myself sufficiently, so as to be able to give you any tolerable account of the commission you was pleased to charge me with. So far as I can find as yet, Mariette is the only man can furnish me with what you want, but he is extravagantly dear. For instance, the book of the King of France's Medals—he will not abate one farthing of 300 livers, which is near 15*l.* sterling, though the preface is only in writing. This has given me so bad an impression of him, that I have employed two booksellers to look for it, and the other books you desire. Address for me to the care of Mr. William Gordon, Banquier, in Paris. I shall not stay so long in this place as I intended, for I prefer a vaudeville on the Pont Neuf to their Opera, and the prints of Le Brun to his paintings.

1718, October 3. Paris.—Michael Kinkaid to the Vice Chamberlain at Hampton Court.

I wrote to you the 10th past, in which I advised you how we were like to be treated by Mariette. After having searched all Paris I thought fit to buy for you the books and prints according to the inclosed account [absent] which I am very well satisfied we are not wronged in. The first four articles I have delivered to Mr. Southwell, who will be sooner with

you than I shall. I have taken the liberty to draw upon you for 40*l.* I take journey tomorrow to Bourdeaux, where I intend to ship off some wine, which they say is admirable good this vintage. If I can serve you there, I hope you will freely command me. My address will be Mr. Robert Gordon, Marchant, in Bourdeaux. I have got 108 portraits of Vandyke, of which above 100 are Vanden Enden, and some proofs before the plates were finished, the best that ever I saw.

1718, November 26. Bourdeaux. — Michael Kinkaid to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

It is true I proposed to take back those books and prints I left with Mr. Southwell, but had not the good fortune to meet with him. I hope you have got them by this time. When I was at Paris I left orders with Mariette for the the Gallerie of the Conseillier at Aix : he, nor no other printsellers there, had ever seen it. I shall take care to procure the books you desire, if they are to be got. I left also with Mariette a note of Poussin's prints.

1719–20, January 10. Windsor —Richard Topham to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have according to the liberty you was pleased to give me taken one of the prints of Commodus, of which you have two or three, and in the room of it put two or three duplicates of mine. I find that you want very few of the prints of Lasseri, but I could wish that your proofs were in a better condition. If any come to my hands that are so, I shall be very glad to add to your collection. The books will be sent tomorrow by the Windsor caravan, John Yandall, master.

1719–20, February 12. St. Petersburg.—Robert Littell to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I ask a thousand pardons for not having in so long a time done myself the honour to acquaint you of my proceedings since I left England which was September the 25th. From the Hope we sailed for Holland, where after lying some time we proceeded for the Baltic : but in the Cattegat meeting with hard gales and contrary winds, it was the latter end of November before we got to Copenhagen. Taking some time there to fit our ship, and to get provisions, found it impossible to proceed any further, but to winter there. After lying here till the 6th of May we set sail and on the 22nd of do. anchored before Crownslott [Cronstadt], where were his Czarish Majesty with the whole Court on board of the ship which he commanded in person, hauling her out of the harbour into the roads there. I had the honour to kiss his hand, who welcomed me to his country, and that hour gave me the command of a ship of 64 guns and 470 men, in which I served the last campaign. I now command a new ship of 72 guns, which hath never been at sea : but how long I shall keep her, that I cannot tell : for it is not here as in England, as to the officers having ships by seniority, but as his Imperial Majesty thinks they can do him most service. And we are assured when we serve him well, we shall never go unrewarded, as we are to the contrary, if we do otherway. For my part I shall always think I cannot enough to serve so great and good a Prince. I thank my God I am very well respected both by his Majesty and all the Court. The Lord High Admiral told me from his Majesty if I took care to behave myself well, as he did not question but I should, then his Majesty and him would be both my friends. I never lived a more lazy life, for we are not at sea above three months in the year, and as our pay is but little, we do little for it. Only the country is something too cold : but was it in his Majesty's power to move it into 48 or 50

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degrees, it would be the finest country in the world. I like it so well, I think I am settled here, at least for his Majesty's life, which God preserve. I have been very unfortunate to lose two very good friends together, as Doctor Arraskin and Rear Admiral Paddon who both was buried last December.

1722, April 7. William Fixhall to William Browne at the Honble. Thomas Coke's, Vice Chamberlain to his Majesty, at St. James.

(Indorsed by the Vice Chamberlain—"Major Fixhall about Nottingham Election.")

Yours I received on Wednesday night at Mr. Harding's by a servant of my Lord How's, and am much surprized to find that anybody could inform the Vice Chamberlain that I had not obeyed his order to Mr. Okeover. I give you my word what I wrote was strictly true, for there was four persons by when I spoke to him, and he then readily complied, and ordered me to call for a letter in the morning. But his steward coming from Wamsall that night, in the morning he had altered his mind as to Lord How, but as to Sir Robert [Sutton] he continued his promise. I wrote the next post to Mr. Harding to acquaint the Vice Chamberlain with it. All the world knows Mr. Okeover to be a positive unpersuasable man. When you have told this to the Vice Chamberlain, I beg you'll favour me with a line, for if I should suffer in his esteem in this affair, I should be much concerned. Mr. Fitzherbert and I were together this morning. Mr. Harding sets out this day for London.

1722, October 24. Rome.—W. Parker to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice Chamberlain, at St. James, London.

I humbly take the boldness to give you an account of my voyage. I had a three months passage by sea. I stayed a week at Leghorn: from thence to Florence where I met with much satisfaction by Mr. Coke's letters to Signor Magnolfi and Signor Bianchi, who received me very kindly, and shewed me the Grand Duke's Palace and Gallery, and promised me I should copy what I pleased. I have been to see several Masters, which are very fine. Mr. Kent gave me a letter to Ca. Lute, who received me very kindly, and shewed me all his drawings, and promised to serve me in all that lay in his power. I shall begin a Boy's Head of his drawing this week. I have met with much civility from Mr. Kent's friends, especially from Mr. Hay, who sets out for England in three or four days time. I am justly compelled to attribute all to your goodness and compassion: for which I hope time may enable me to do something worthy of your notice: graced with your acceptance, it will raise it in value in mine and the world's esteem. Wherefore beseeching your Honour to have a favourable opinion of my mind to serve you in everything I humbly subscribe myself your dutiful and obliged servant. Sir, this is my direction—Signor Guglielmo Parker, Inglese Pittore, Roma.

1724, August 12. Hatfield.—Revd. Charles Cecil to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

The occasion of the trouble I now give you is to inform you of the vacancy of a Prebendary in the Church of Westminster by the death of Dr. Linford; which I hope will not give you any suspicion that I've the least doubt of your readiness to serve me: but knowing things of this nature are what all of my profession are seeking after, was apprehensive it might be disposed of before it came to your knowledge. I hope therefore you will be so kind as to interest yourself in obtaining this which will perfectly complete the happiness of your most obliged servant.

1724, October 7. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

I take the liberty to trouble you with this, being persuaded that the news of our safe arrival at Paris would not be unacceptable to you. We got hither about 4 o'clock yesterday not without having encountered some danger, and many little difficulties, which prevented our being here two days before. We set out from London on Saturday about noon, and reached Rochester the same night: the next we got to Canterbury, and by noon the next day to Dover, where we met with great civility from Mr. Lovel, Master of the King's Pacquet Boats, and embarked thence the day following on board one of his boats. We had a very fair wind and so large that we could have got into the harbour at Calais in two hours and a half, had there been water sufficient for our vessel to have gone in, and the sea was so high that no boat durst venture out to carry us ashore: which obliged us to ply to and fro for two hours more, during which time my sister and Mr. Bethel were extremely sick. By that time the master of our vessel apprehended there might be water enough for us to get into the harbour, which had liked to have proved a fatal mistake, for upon our entrance into the mouth of the harbour we struck three times, and it was the general opinion we had been inevitably lost, if the vessel had not been quite new. At Calais we met with the usual treatment of seaport towns, and there we purchased a Berlin which, by being new fitted up and painted for sale, concealed many infirmities we could not at that time find out, which throughout the remaining part of our journey has put us to much charge in repairs, and has been the means of preventing our making that expedition we should otherwise have done. My cousin Corbet has been so well during our journey that after having travelled near sixty miles in one day she was not the least fatigued, and I believed would have held out travelling at the same rate had our machine been as able. We are now à L'Hotel d'Antrague, Rue de Condé, where I shall be proud of receiving your commands.

1724, November 11. N.S. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke.

I am very sorry you met with so much difficulty to get my waiting supplied, and am particularly concerned that the trouble you was at was caused by the misfortune which happened to Dr. Lovel. I shall be very ready to acknowledge the obligation upon any occasion to Dr. Lovel as well as Dr. Ibbot, and the rest who have been so kind as to officiate for me. I have sent by the bearer of this the map of the Canal Royal, with the aqueducts and sluices. I am very much afraid we shall not be able to get from hence this winter, for my cousin is now so very ill that it will be impossible for her to move, though like others in her distemper, she fancies herself immortal, and talks of taking a journey of one hundred leagues, when she is not able to stir out of her chair. My sister takes much pains with her French.

1724, December 12. N.S. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

. . . If you have occasion for any French books, I don't doubt but, with the assistance of Mr. Bethel, who is a great critic that way, to be able to get them here: though indeed their shops here are the worst furnished with books in any language besides their own I ever met with. I have bought some few books here in order to obtain their language, and have so far succeeded in my endeavours, as to be able to read any of their authors in prose with almost the same facility I can

Coke MSS. English. . . . If I shall be so happy as to receive a summons to return to England to take possession of any benefice you will be so good to get for me, I should not propose to remain there any longer than would be absolutely necessary to go through the forms, but return hither till my being here should answer the purposes of my first coming abroad: which were to get out of debt, and acquire the language of this country, both which ends I am in hopes will be obtained when the season will permit us to get further into the country, where we may live much cheaper, and meet with fewer English. Mr. Walpole did me the honour to invite me to dinner the other day; who has been in so bad a state of health since his being here that I believe few of his acquaintance would readily know him. . . .

1724, December, 15. N.S. Paris.—Margaret Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

. . . My brother sent you a letter and a map at the same time which I believe is lost, for we have not heard anything of the messenger since. I suppose you have expected long ago a letter from me in French, but I hope you are not very impatient, for I fear I shall be obliged to put it off for some time longer. I have now got me a master, and intend to grow very good. My brother has been much better than I: he can read French with as much ease as English, and I believe will be able to speak it very soon. He is gone today to see the ceremony of the burial of the King of Spain: it is I hear to be very magnificent. I am so discreet as to get the better of my curiosity and stay at home to preserve my legs and arms. I expect my brother will break down a scaffold and put to death many of the French: and if I destroy any of them it must be the same way, for I have not yet been able to touch the heart of a Marquis. But I shall not quite despair, till I have tried my fortune in a white curled tower stuck with flowers, which is worn here with great success. I desire my humble service to Miss Coke. My cousin Corbet is much better.

1724–5, January 11. N.S. Paris.—Margaret Cecil to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

. . . So much of my time is spent in nursing at present that I have but little for anything else. My brother has been confined with the gout ten days. . . My cousin is better, and intends in the spring to go to Naples, it being the opinion of the doctors that she can't recover without it. I don't intend to carry my compliment so far as to wait on her there, it being a journey that will by no means suit with my finances. Nor does living in Paris agree with me much better, every thing being vastly dearer than in England. Mr. Bethel intends to continue his post of knight errant, and attend on my cousin to Naples, but my brother lives in hopes of a call another way. We hear at Paris that the King goes this year to Hanover, and his Chaplain wishes much to go with him. I have just heard a piece of news that I think worthy of relating—that this morning one of the French King's Gentlemen of the Bedchamber was beheaded for stealing the gold fringe from the King's chairs. I hear if he had not been a man of quality, he would only have been hanged. The news you sent me I would have sent you long before now. only I was afraid you would have thought I did it only to give myself an air of having an English lover, because I could not get a French one. I assure you as to when the wedding will be, or when the clothes was bought is unknown to me.

1724–5, January 18. N.S. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

The pain I have of late suffered by the gout has been so violent that I have been entirely disabled from writing: but being at present almost free from pain I lay hold of this opportunity to acknowledge the favour of your last, and likewise to let you into the particulars of an affair, as far as I am able, which I find you are not an entire stranger to: and being an affair on which my sister's future happiness so much depends, I am very glad to hear it meets with your approbation. Mr. Brown has made his addresses to my sister from her first arrival here, and by what I can judge of the matter, she does not seem to disapprove of him; at the same time I believe she is not as yet vastly smitten, and I am persuaded will not advance so far in the affair as not to have it in her power to make an honourable retreat, if there should arise any circumstances that would make it necessary for her to do so. To me I must own he appears to be a person noways to be excepted against; and he has a fortune more than sufficient to make their lives very agreeable, if all other circumstances be answerable to that. He is very desirous to have an opportunity to make appear to whomsoever she will direct him that he has more than forty thousand pounds in the funds in England, besides some effects of considerable value in Italy, and has offered to consent to any proposals of settlement &c. she will require. But for her conduct in this affair she depends entirely upon you, not doubting but that you will advise her in a matter of this consequence, having received so many instances of your inclination and readiness to contribute to her happiness.

1724–5, January 26. N.S. Paris.—Margaret Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

. . . My brother is still confined to his chamber with the gout: he intends as soon as he can get out of it to leave us and go to Dijon, in order to improve himself in French, and to live at less expense than he does here. He is very melancholy at a piece of news sent him, which was that Lady Holderness said that Dr. Locker is to go as Chaplain with the King. If it is not so pray comfort him with the news, for he is very unhappy about it at present. . . . This scrawl is excuseable at present being in haste to dress for a ball which Sir Thomas Prendergrase gives to the English. He is the very finest of men; you will soon have him in London, and he will bring with him a coat for the next birthday that will all coats outshine.

1724–5, February 13. N.S. Paris.—Margaret Cecil to the Rt. Hlbe. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

. . . In your letter of January 25 you chide me for not mentioning the affair you are so kind as to interest yourself in. My reason for not doing so was my brother told me he had the post before: so I hope you will not be angry with me. I can have no reason to give, and no person can show a greater confidence in another than by trusting them with their misfortunes or their follies. I shall therefore take this opportunity of doing it, and inform you that my fortune is not so well as you imagine, having been obliged to lessen it by paying part of what my uncle Cecil left me to persons I had long been indebted to. Though it is not possible for you to conceive half the hardships I suffered from the unkindness of my mother, yet you can't be so much a stranger to her want of affection and kindness for me, but that you may easily believe what I am telling you. When she put me to my allowance it was at a time when I wanted as thorough a clothing as when I came into the world, so that more than a year's allowance went at my first setting out, which put me so much behind hand that

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I continued to add to the debt till my mother died; and I believe you may remember it was a year after before my affairs was put in a method: and in all that time I had no money but what I was obliged to you for. When I received my uncle's legacy, I paid all I owed which was near 600*l.* I hope you will not entirely attribute to my folly the lessening of my fortune. This Paris journey has also helped me that way, for I am indebted to my cousin Corbet 50*l.*, which I want to pay her, and I shall want some money upon another account soon. So that I beg the favour of you to inform me if there is any method of selling my stock without my being present.

1724–5, February 13. N.S. Paris. Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

Since my last Mr. Brown has taken an opportunity of acquainting me with what he proposes by way of settlement on my sister. . . . . His fortune being all in the funds he proposes to add 3,000*l.* to her fortune, to be put into the hands of trustees for her, if she survives him, and to be entirely at her disposal: but seems unwilling to tie any other part of his money by way of security for the children they may have, or any certain sum commonly styled pinmoney. Nor does she seem inclinable to demand any. . . . I cannot indeed help observing that his conduct in this affair does not entirely correspond with his former professions.

1724–5, February 23. N.S. Paris. Margaret Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke, St. James's House, London.

My brother wrote you a letter with an account of the settlement Mr. Brown proposes to make. I should be glad to know your opinion of it, and beg the favour of you that in a letter to Mr. Brown you will make any objections you shall think proper. I have told him my fortune is 4,000*l.* The money my uncle left me bought 1,700*l.* South Sea Stock. I have informed Mr. Brown that 1,000*l.* of my fortune I owe to your goodness and generosity, and that in this or any affair of consequence I should always consult you, not only as a relation but as my best and kindest friend.

1724–5, March 6. N.S. St. Cloud.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

I have been for some time in the country in the hopes of regaining the strength I have lost by my late illness. Mr. Mariette has packed up your prints, and they will be sent forward by Mr. Alexandre, who assures me they shall be taken great care of. Living at Paris so long has almost broke all my measures: but I am in hopes I shall speedily retrieve them, by accompanying my sister and brother, as I believe Mr. Brown will soon be, to Italy—all obstacles at present being removed, he having very readily accepted of the proposals you made, and will very soon send directions to proper persons in London to prepare writings agreeable thereunto, in order to be laid before you for your approbation. As for pinmoney my sister would not permit me to make any demand, having (as I believe) very good reasons for it. The real satisfaction I received from the account you sent me of the success of your meeting with the Bishop of London affected me in a more sensible manner than I am capable of expressing: I will assure his Lordship I shall make it my chief study to merit for the future the opinion he has conceived of me. Please to address as usual being but two leagues from Paris.

1724–5, March 16. N.S. Paris.—Margaret Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke, at St. James's House, London.

The concern I have been in for the loss of my cousin, and a fever I have had since, I hope will plead my excuse for not returning my thanks sooner for your last very kind and obliging letter of 11th of February. . . . The pleasure I should have in seeing and conversing with such a friend as you is alone sufficient to make any place in which you are preferable to any other; and will be the only reason to prevent my being very much pleased with a journey to Italy, having a great curiosity to see a place I have heard and read so much of. Mr. Brown has money in private hands in Venice, that he says would be difficult to get without his being there . . . I have sent you a copy of a writing that he has had drawn here, which he thinks will be a sufficient security to me till a settlement can be made. As for myself I think I should run no hazards, if I had no settlement, for was Mr. Brown to die, the third of his fortune which would then be mine would be much more than I shall have otherways. And he is in no danger of losing the money he has got, having left off trade entirely this nine years . . . An acquaintance of mine in London who has known him twenty years, gives him a perfect good character. If you are acquainted with Colonel Gardener, he can inform you. I believe it will be more satisfaction to you to hear any good of him from a person unconcerned than from me, because love is blind. But I give you my word, though I have a very good opinion of him, I am not so smitten as not to have my ear open. He is very desirous of the honour of being known to you, and said he intended to take the liberty of writing to you, and desired me to excuse it to you.

1724–5, March 16. N.S. Paris.—Robert Brown to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

The pleasure I hope to have at my return to England in your friendship and acquaintance will be very great, and I shall not think it a small one that of writing to you in the meantime, if you are so good as to indulge me therein, by allowing me some opportunities here, or in the country where I am going, of serving you. From the conversation I have had with Mrs. Cecil, I have learned to know your worth and your good qualities, as well as if I had passed my whole life with you. She never seems more pleased than in owning your goodness to her, and the many obligations she has to you. I would be very glad to have you imagine from thence how desirous I am of the honour of being well thought of by you, and of deserving the same all I can. I believe I cannot do it in any way more agreeable to you and so easy to myself, as that of being a good husband to Mrs. Cecil, who I shall always think deserves of me much more than will ever be in my power. . . .

1724–5, March 15. O.S. St. James's.—Vice Chamberlain Coke to Mr. Robert Brown. Paris. (Draft.)

I received the favour of yours from Paris, for which I am very much obliged to you, and shall embrace with a great deal of pleasure the obliging offers of your friendship. What my sister Cecil has said of me is more than anything I have done can deserve: but will always by my endeavours to serve her, try to merit her good word. I wish you both extremely happy in your undertaking, and a safe return into England, which I am sorry to hear is not likely to be next spring. But no distance I hope will prevent me hearing from you, and receiving your commands, with which if you will please to favour me, you will give me an opportunity of showing you the sincerity of my being, Sir, your most faithful humble servant.

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1724–5, March 23. N.S. Paris.—Rev. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

. . . I have received a paper from Mr. Brown, which he calls Articles of Agreement between my sister and him, drawn up as I suppose by himself . . . My sister tells me she will send you a copy of them, which I believe you will find very defective in many particulars. However I find she is determined to marry him before I believe you can send any answer, having appointed Easter Sunday for the day of marriage according to this style . . . . They propose to set out from hence very soon after their marriage for Italy, and have been very pressing with me to accompany them thither, where they design to reside till the next spring. For which reason I must beg the favour of you, if you have any opportunity of seeing the Bishop of Lincoln, who is my diocesan, to desire his permission to be abroad, without which I may incur a very severe penalty. I hope the Bishop of London is acquainted with my being abroad, or he will take it very ill, that I have not been to wait on him to acknowledge his kind intentions to assist in obtaining a prebendary for me. I hope by this time you have received the prints you ordered to be sent.

1725, April 10. N.S. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

I received the favour of yours by which I was very glad to find that the Articles my sister sent you would be binding, for they were signed and the marriage consummated on Easter Monday. My brother Brown and sister propose to set out from hence on their journey to Italy in very few days, and I shall accompany them, relying upon your interest to obtain leave for me of his Majesty and the Bishop of Lincoln to be absent, till I shall be so happy as to receive a summons to return home by means of your kind soliciting in my favour. I this day saw the prints you writ for packed up. . . . I hope I shall have the pleasure of being employed in some commission in Italy, where curiosities abound.

1725, April 13. N.S. Paris.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

Since my last I have been informed where you may find the prints of the Medals in the King's Cabinet, which you writ for to Mr. Marriette, who has not been able to procure them for you. They were lately bought here by a person who makes it his business to buy things of that nature. He has sent a book with all those Medals, and several others which contain the prints of all the King's Pictures and Statues to his partner in London, James Woodman, Bookseller, in Russell St. Covent Garden. Tomorrow or next day at farthest we shall set forwards on our journey to Venice.

1725, June 6. Venice.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

I had not the pleasure of receiving yours of the 15th of April till my arrival at Paluello the 27th of last month, where my brother Brown has a country house, the pleasantest situated I ever saw upon the river Brenta, 8 miles from Padua and 20 from Venice. Yesterday we came to Venice by water, which appeared to us a much more agreeable way of travelling than in a chaise voiturine, of which we were very heartily tired. . . . Since her arrival here my sister has had two houses to put in order, and much company continually coming in, so that she has hardly had time to rest herself from her journey. I am much obliged to you for the further leave you have obtained for me to be

absent, but shall be much more glad to receive a summons to return though I must confess if my affairs did not require redress, I should be very much pleased to stay in this country some years. I hope you received my letters from Lyons and Turin, since which we met with no accident, but frequent danger of overturning by the badness of the roads, occasioned by continual rains. What is a very agreeable surprise to me is that it is very little hotter here than in England. . . . Letters sent by the common post directed to Venice seldom come safe. Please to direct for me at the British Consul's, Venice, inclosing it to Messrs. Peter Mentink and Sons Merchants at Amsterdam.

1725, August 3. N.S. Venice.—Mrs. Margaret Brown to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

. . . I wish I could make amends for my long silence by sending you any news or tittle-tattle that would divert you; but I am as yet so much a stranger that I know nothing of this place, but that it is vastly hot. . . . I have read in the News such an account of the finery of your new Order of Knights, [the Bath] that I don't expect to be made amends for the loss of that sight by any of the shows of Venice: though I am promised to be mightily entertained with the gaiety of the Saints. My brother gets the start of me quite in Italian, as he did in the French, by his great application: he understands everything that is said, and can talk a good deal. . . . I suppose you know that you are to have opera in great perfection next winter, and to our loss, for Mr. Sweng has agreed with the Faustina to go to England.

1725, October 12. Venice. — Mrs. Margaret Brown to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

. . . I was very glad to find by your letter that you have been so well this summer as to be able to take so long a ramble, and hope from the exercise of it you have laid up a stock of health for the winter. Mr. Hanbury was here but a few days after I came to Venice, so that I saw him but once. If I had known he was a friend of yours, we would have come sooner from a place we was in in the country, to have waited on him here and contributed all we could to make Venice agreeable to him. Mr. Chambers I hear is ill of the small-pox at Parma. . . . The first day I have my best looks on I will obey your commands in sitting for my picture, and will send it you, as soon as it is done. . . . I must take this opportunity to remind you of a promise which when performed will give me so much pleasure. . . . I hope you will sit for your picture at Richardson's. I am very glad to hear George has quite recovered the illness in his eyes, and that Pud is well [Mr. Coke's son and daughter Charlotte]. I desire my compliments to them and to Miss Coke.

1725, October 30. N.S. Parma. — William Chamber to [Vice-Chamberlain Coke].

Give me leave to return you my most humble thanks for your obliging recommendation of me to Mr. Robert Brown of Venice, of which my route will not permit me to profit. He let me know by a gentleman that passed this way that you had mentioned me to him, and made me offers of his service if I came to Venice. Had I not fallen ill of the small pox here, before this time I should have been in France, though really I leave Italy after two years stay in it with regret. . . . Of all the arts here cultivated Painting has been my particular delight. I have bought some pictures here at Parma, among which by accident I have got a fine Bassan, that did not cost me fifty shillings. I have several others that want baptizing, which when they arrive at Han-

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worth, [Middlesex] I beg you would give your judgment of what authors they are of: and if they are so happy as to meet with your approbation, I shall be entirely contented with my purchases.

1725, December 10. Gravesend.—W. Parker to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

I have sent you by the bearer a picture which I received this day from my son at Rome. He says in his letter, it's the picture of Angelica a Dora [Adora ?]. And that the last I sent you is the history of [the daughter of?] Peneus or Ladon, who, flying from the violence of Apollo was turned into a baytree. Both which I hope will prove worth your acceptance.

1725, December 28. Venice.—Revd. Charles Cecil to the Rt. Hble. Thomas Coke at St. James's House, London.

My sister has furnished me with a very agreeable occasion of wishing you joy of a new relation—being safely delivered of a daughter on Christmas day: of which she had so little notice that she was very late the night before at St. Mark's to see the ceremony of that place, and about four in the morning brought to bed. . . . I see no probability of their returning to England some years: and by the preparation my brother Brown has made for a large family here confirms me in that belief. He has lately taken a very large house, which he has furnished in a manner not very agreeable to one who proposes soon to leave it. Besides so long a journey with a little family cannot but be attended with too great difficulties to be attempted. However I live in great hopes of a call home by your assistance before that time, and to be in a capacity to return hither. In the meantime I hope you will be so good as to get my leave to stay abroad continued of his Majesty and the Bishop of Lincoln, my Diocesan, and to get my waiting at Court supplied. . . . I had the pleasure to hear by my sister that you had health sufficient to undertake a Derbyshire journey.

1726, April 12. N.S. Venice.—Mrs. Margaret Brown to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

. . . The news that my brother's letter brought you I believe surprised you a little: and the occasion was a surprise to us, being long before I expected it. My curiosity carried me to the top of St. Mark's Church on Christmas Eve to see the ceremony there, and the many stairs I went up was not very suitable to a gentlewoman in my then sad circumstances: so that I was taken ill as soon as I came home. But notwithstanding I introduced your goddaughter into company a little before it was proper, she behaves herself very well, and has a great deal of wit, and I believe will make a very good wife; so pray make my compliments to my nephew, and tell him I desire him not to settle his affections upon a lady till he has first seen my daughter. . . . I must ask pardon for taking the liberty of naming you for her god-father before I had your leave. . . . I must put you in mind of your last letter that gave me the hopes of having a picture of you soon: the sight of it will be such a pleasure to me that I can't help being very impatient for it. . . . You will by the next ship that goes from hence have the face of your humble servant done by Rosalba, who assures me she never painted a picture better, and as it was for so good a friend, I behaved myself very patiently in sitting, and she commended me so much for it, that she acknowledged, if it was not like, it would be entirely her fault. There has been a great many of our country people here this Carnival: but at present there is none left. We have also lost my brother for a time: he is gone to see

Rome and Naples, but intends to be back at the Ascension, which I am told is one of the finest sights of Venice.

1726, May 18. Rathkeel.—Viscount Southwell to [his father in law] Vice Chamberlain Coke.

I had this day an account of the Duke of Newcastle's performing his promise to you, in making me one of his Majesty's Privy Council here. I return you my most humble thanks for it, and have done the same by this night's post both to his Grace and my Lord Lieutenant. I have been in this country these two months past. My wife and little ones are all well. She joins me in grateful acknowledgments for your many favours to us, and I hope you will be assured I shall always have a thorough sense of them.

1726, October 4. Venice.—Revd. Charles Cecil to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

. . . There has been a very extraordinary piece of antiquity found by accident under ground last winter near Rome, which is very much esteemed by the virtuosi there—it being the most perfect in its kind that has been discovered for many ages past. It is the Sepulchre of Livia, wife of Augustus, in which were found the urns that contained the ashes of her and all her domestics, with several very curious basso-rilievos and inscriptions, denoting the several offices each bore in her service, among which there are several that the antiquarians have never before had any knowledge of. I happened to be at Rome very soon after the discovery of it, and hoping it might be acceptable to you, I have procured a draught of it from a person the most esteemed in that way in Italy: and have since been favoured by my Lord Hope with all the inscriptions; which, when I was there, were not to be had, the persons that found it having broken most of the urns and marble, in expectation to find medals, or other treasure, and were in too much haste to use a gentler method to open them, for fear of having it discovered to the Camera Apostolica, which claims a right to all things of this kind that are found within the State: by which means several valuable pieces of antiquity are destroyed in this barbarous manner. I will take the first opportunity of sending it to you, being too large to send by the post, consisting of several sheets. It is said here, it will soon be printed: but as this is the original from whence it will be printed, I judge this might be preferable. I am informed the King goes to Hanover this spring. I know I need say no more, and hope you'll not think my having said so much proceeds from the least diffidence I can possibly have of your inclination to contribute to my going with him. . . . I believe within a few months our family is likely to be increased.

[This letter is endorsed by Mr. John Coke "The drawings received since Mr. Vice Chamberlain died."]

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ADDENDA.

1602, October 20. Cambridge.—George Coke to John Coke. Brother,

For Mr. Verny's disputation,—I was not an ear witness, being all day long with our Master in our office accounts, and absolutely denied by him to go. Divers of good judgment both at home and abroad, whom I have talked withal, do give him very extraordinary commendations: his oration, his answers, very judicious, very acute, and his tongue very ready. All men say he had wrong in nothing, but in a bad replyer, whose arguments he did cut so short, with ready and philosophical distinctions, that he utterly confounded him; and yet they that knew the replyer say much for his commendation and that he was well esteemed of. His first gest was, as I have heard, "voluntas non cogitur."

For our friends in Derbyshire, I left them all in good health, brother and sister Coke, Fulwood, Bussye, all very glad of my company, and very kind unto me. Sister Bussye, I hope by this God hath delivered her safely from her burden, which I think is the fourth since her marriage. She hath an honest, kind husband: she herself lives very contentedly in the fear of God and the love and favour of all his and her own friends. Sister Coke I have found very kind, and living in true hearty affections to us all: we never forgot to remember you in our merryments, and many times in serious talk I do often wish that things might go better with her, but in truth she beareth them well and wisely, and is contented with all she cannot mend. Brother Francis, I have found him more kind than ordinary for outward carriage only: but nothing more liberal, though he grow rich, yet he is very hard, and having plenty of all things in great abundance, yet could he be contented to send me away without my annuity, with his old answer, I will send it by the next messenger. In all things else very kind and merry were we, so continued and so parted; so that I thought my time very well bestowed amongst them, but especially with my kindest sister Coke, with whom I was ever merry. Our Uncle Gilbert is dead, and my Aunt lives at Lockow, with her two younger sons and daughter: Thomas with his wife in Leicestershire groweth very rich. So cousin Daners [Danvers]. Other news we had none: only Formarke's young daughter and heir is married to one Mr. Burdett, of Warwickshire, as I think. Mr. Harpur of Swarkaston is restored to his justiceship, since my Lord of Shrewsbury was of the Council. For Aristotle, I cannot find any such in the town, Greek and Latin of Stevens print as you writ for.

I am chosen Catechiser for this year, which every Sunday I am to perform; in the discharge of which duty I intend to proceed according to my former course of study in the general heads of divinity, until I have made a perfect body. I am also rhetoric lecturer, which I must read twice every week, which will be so more pains to me. I pray you for your notes Pro Archia, if you have them, to help me. I am also senior Thesaurarius, to dispose of all charge and accounts of the College. Thus I am pressed this year with very many businesses, which all I willingly undergo with good courage, hoping for a harvest. Messe quis fruitur, qui non prius tulit sementis onera? Summe Deus, adsis mihi, ut Tuo consilio imposita mihi onera Tuâ ope perferam: tuque frater adsis mihi precibus tuis.

1607, November 18. Cambridge.—George Coke to John Coke at Sir Foulke Grevill's house at Tottenham High Cross. COKE MSS.

Brother,—I have received your letter, and am most willing, with thanks both to God and those good means which he hath stirred up to further this blessing, to entertain your good motion: and will be ready according to his holy assistance at all times (if it be his good will that it may succeed) to the uttermost of my small gifts to discharge the same in my own person: and will endeavour so to approve your good testimony of me as that it may appear you have not been much mistaken. And I will also be ready, whensoever the patron shall require, to offer my service according to his desire. Only about this time, if it be possible I would desire some forbearance by reason of a divinity act, which within this fortnight I am to perform in the Schools: it comes unexpected upon me, sooner than I looked for, by reason of the strictness of the Vice-Chancellor of late, which doth urge everyone to keep his due course. I have written to both Sir Edmond and Mr. Henry Lucy according to your direction. I would desire you before your departure to leave certain direction what course I shall follow if in your absence the parsonage fall void. I was determined to go into Derbyshire this Christmas about gathering up of some money which there is owing me for some of my [pupils?] as also of brother Francis, with whom I much desire to make even reckoning. The reason that makes me desirous to gather up this money is an office of a bursarship which now this two years hath been laid upon me in which I am straitened by these extravagant debts. I will send cousin Streethay present word, by whose means I doubt not but to get knowledge of the old man's health, as God shall determine of him.

1608, April. From his Chamber in Pembroke College, Cambridge.—George Coke to John Coke at Sir Foulke Grevill his house in the Augustine Fryers.

Good brother, What trouble I have had by Bygrave, and what by sickness, I must let you understand. For Bygrave I have learned my lesson now the second time by a presentation from the King, and a second institution and induction. I used no friends but my purse and labours, only I acquainted both Sir F. Grevill and Sir Edmond Lucy, who offered me all means in their power, if I had found difficulty. I had certain notice of a lapse, by Dr. Sterne his being instituted into Stevenadge after he had Bygrave, and not being qualified, as also of not being minister of a year after he was inducted into Bygrave. After I had gone through both these businesses, with much charge and no less trouble both of body and mind, it pleased God to visit me with an ague, which hath held me now five times by course of every other day: which did a little more daunt me than all the other. But God had mercy upon me, and hath delivered me also from this Philistine, that I may stay yet a while to serve him at Bygrave, and learn by his correction to amend. What honourable favour I have found at Sir F. Grevill, and especially at Sir Edmond Lucy, in the most worthy manner befitting such personages, I pray you take notice from me in the most ample manner yourself can conceive. What also from my worthy patron, Mr. Warren and his virtuous and worthy bedfellow, both before and since my coming to Bygrave. I pray you in my behalf return all possible thanks. In truth in them and their favour I esteem not the least part of this great blessing, which God hath bestowed upon me. Also I pray you remember for me Mr. Henry Lucy, in whose favour and kindness, and (as himself pleaseth to term and use it) familiarity I am much comforted and encouraged: and I beseech you pray to God for me, that for

Coke MSS. these blessings I may be thankful. When I hear of your coming to London, if God enable me, I will come see you, for I desire to speak with you. Brother Francis hath sent up his sons to me, whom I have placed some in S. Johns, and some in our own College.

1623, October 30. Bygrave.—George Coke to John Coke.

Good brother,—I have been at Cambridge when my first business was to break fare with Dr. Beale, who hath all this while offered all kindness for the receiving of your children into that College (Pembroke) and next I went to Dr. Richardson, whom I found willing and glad to show any kindness in them. We have agreed with Mr. Green to be their tutor, who at the Doctor's entreaty is content to take them into his tuition, so dainty are tutors now a days in Cambridge, that they will be entreated or they will take no more. Chambers also are as hard to be gotten in that College, as in Pembroke Hall; so that if the Master had not made shift for one over himself, we might have been destitute; only for a time was I compelled to be contented with that, for I find that it will be an occasion to them to have too much commerce with the Master's men, of which also Mr. Green himself gave me a hint. * For Mr. Green, I find nothing but exceeding well, a man commended to be both learned and industrious, and of a civil and honest conversation. And this I hear of him by Dr. Beale especially, as also by Mr. Whincop of that College. For gowns you must provide so many yards of broad cloth of violet colour dyed in grain as will make them wide sleeved gowns; and a yard of serge black to line the sleeves at least half way on the fore part: no other lining at all for them. And I think you may do very well to buy them other gowns also of cloth, of any colour, for study gowns: the cloth cannot be too course, for they must never wear them but in their studies, and those gowns must also be lined with anything, only for warmth, not faced nor caped with velvet, but as plain and homely as you will, so they be warm. The time when you must send them is appointed to be the 10th day of November. *

(1625, August 4.)—Sir John Coke to Fulke Grevyl, Lord Brooke.

Right Honourable,—No servant of yours can be more sorry for your indisposition than I am, nor more glad that by your good usage you find some contentment. And I am assured that by your absence from hence you can sustain no loss: for I hear not of any meeting with the States, nor of any business of importance to give you entertainment to your mind. In Parliament, before my coming, there was much exception taken against a pardon granted to a Jesuit at Exeter, wherein the Lord Conway and the Lord Keeper were taxed; and the King himself escaped not exception, for granting it the next day after he had engaged his word to the House for their suppression. No less earnestness hath been used against Dr. Onian, who being under the censure of the House yet pressed to preach before them at the Fast, which they would not permit: and against Dr. Mountague, whose absence is excused only by his sickness. And this is all I know of the proceedings in the House, whither I came but on Tuesday, and that night had my instructions to deliver the present state of affairs to the Nether House: which on Wednesday night was changed and left doubtful whether the Lord Conway or I should relate it to both Houses in the presence of the King. And this morning, even in the Hall where we met, the counsel varied again, and the Lord Conway was required to say something, and I to present the rest: so as a greater charge, with so little warning and many changes, could hardly have been laid upon so weak shoulders. And I give God hearty thanks that it is passed over (as I hope)

without shame. The first intention was a bare narration of the progress of business, since the relation made to both Houses by the Lord Duke, and, after a short intimation of the importance of the services in hand and the impossibility to bear the charge without their assistance, to leave it to their judgments whether they would now proceed to a resolution, or adjourn till winter, in regard of the sickness. But the resolution upon the present, which the King himself delivered to me in his chair, was to shew the importance of the fleet, and it could not proceed without a present supply by money or credit; which is the business that now possesseth and troubleth the whole House. And tomorrow morning is appointed to begin to debate it. The King himself first delivered his mind effectually and clearly to this end, and I presume that will be of far more force to sway our resolution than anything that could be said by any of his servants. The envy that I bear is that it hath not been known, nor is agreeable to the orders of the House, (as some think) that a Nether House man was ever employed to deliver the King's pleasure to both Houses of Parliament: which came to pass at this time only by reason of the sudden change of counsel, which gave not time to any other to be instructed for a speech of near an hour long. For my part I neither had ambition nor thought of speaking in that place. The King since dinner is gone to meet the Queen, and the Lord Duke with him. I spake with the Gentleman Usher, Mr. Harris, about your Lordships' lodging, and he telleth me he hath reserved one for you within the Court, which I have sent Mr. Woolcote to see, that he may make his choice of the best. When further occasion is offered I will give your Honour a further account; and in the meantime praying for your health and happiness, do rest your Lordship's in all humble service, John Coke.

(1633), May 27. Melbourne.—John Coke the younger "for yourself" [Sir John Coke].

This enclosed dated last from Risley was sent on Monday night to Derby. But that courier went not, so I was extremely disappointed. I sought for a conveyance from Donington, but the Countess hath deferred her journey till Tuesday next, it may be for Mr. Henry Hastings hath the small pox.

I have received more kind entertainment at Risley than you could have expected, if you had known Sir Henry Willoughby's disposition and his carriage and reservedness towards others. After that Sir Henry had so freely the first night taken notice of the intention of my coming, I desired him next day to give me leave to have some speech with his daughter. He himself went in presently and sent her out to me into the great chamber, where I had half an hour's discourse with her. And because I conceived it to be expected, after supper I rose from the table when she did and took her by the hand into a round window, and told her of the occasion of my coming. Next morning I had the opportunity to find her in the great chamber by some favour and to speak with her again concerning the same matter. Her answers are civil and such as befit her modesty. She is a gentlewoman of a good person in my eye, and of a pretty sweet disposition; not tall, about my sister Mary's height and proportion or rather not altogether so tall; something pale and of few words, those civil and discreet. I conceived the whole house to be generally well affected towards me. Having lain there two nights, on Wednesday I thought fit to take my leave for the first time. Sir Henry upon this told me he had always borne a very good affection towards this match, and now by reason of the death of his daughter Griffith he was desirous she should not be far from him

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that he might have the more comfort of her, and he knew if I had her I would carry her but to Melbourne. At my departure he called his lady and daughter himself into the great chamber that I might take my leave of them. And the last words he spoke to me were that he hoped he should see me again before 'twere long. Every one told me I should find him a man of few words: but I assure you he hath kept me company for the most part himself with much freeness and familiarity, insomuch that my cousin Gilbert saith he never knew him to do the like. I am bound to my lady and all the house. I intend to be at Risley again on Monday. I go to Trusley this night to receive my uncle's directions. And I hope to despatch everything so well as is requisite and to be at London the beginning of the Term. God hath blessed me hitherto exceedingly. I desire you to pardon these abrupt letters in regard of the occasion. I have sent them as they were written, to testify for me that the fault is not in me you heard from me no sooner. I pray you give me your blessing and prayers, your faithfully obedient son.

If you think fit to send these few lines to Sir Francis Darcy in regard of his desire, I have written them to that purpose.

This letter comes by Mr. Leming, the lawyer. My cousin William Coke desires to have his service presented to you.

1638-9, January 16. Melbourne.—Sir John Coke the Younger [to Secretary Sir John Coke.] [No address.]

This day the Barbary falcons came both to my hands. That which we take for a haggard, though Mr. Mayo writes her a rummage falcon, hath good flesh upon her, endues her meat and pannels very well. But the sore falcon hath suffered very much in her journey; for the bearer confesseth he received her high of her flesh, now she is very poor: yet I hope we shall recover her, for she puts away her meat and pannels reasonable well. It seems she was unruly in carriage after the first day which was I fear caused by over short feeding, and he was to blame for bringing them 15 or 16 miles at the least yesterday, which was a day bitter both for cold and snow. Yet I hope they shall both do very well. The older hawk scaped best, having been, as you write, formerly reclaimed and so the more gentle. I give you humble thanks for them, they are indeed very fine birds, and I hope, God willing, to show you sport with them at your coming into these parts next summer. By Mr. Reede I have written something unto you concerning Harlaston, and I hope by the beginning of the term to give you perfect account. May you but have a marketable price and I think little exception can be taken to the place. The land is excellent good, in a sure country for tenants, near the coals, in all respects beyond Etwall; only that it stands in the edge of Staffordshire, and that the chapel is supplied by a curate who hath but small allowance from the parson of Clifton, within whose parish it is. These are all the incommodities. If the purchaser pay dear, he may make himself some amends by raising rents upon the tenants, who are not so racked as at Etwall, and most of them at will, the rest only for one life, some two for two lives. If a reasonable pennyworth may be had, the tenants may be better entreated. If I commend the place too much, you will guess that I have respect to the hawking, which is there very convenient and near, both for the field and river, far beyond Etwall. Of Seale I cannot certainly learn that it will be sold. I shall be very well contented to pay for the saddles you have pleased to provide for me. Winter hath not begun with us until yesterday and this day: now it freezeth very hard. With the mason I have agreed for 17*l.* He is both to get, hew, and set all the stone

work. I hope it will be done to your contentment. It is now generally conceived, though I know not of any express order given therein, that His Majesty's pleasure is that all such as find horses shall furnish them in those several counties where their estates lie, and that no man shall be charged where he liveth for more than the land he hath in that county. And the reasons hereof are supposed to be these. First that every county is to defend itself. Secondly that men's estates that lie in several counties cannot be exactly known in the counties where they live. And yet I know notwithstanding that certificates have been admitted by my Lord Newcastle in this county, and by others elsewhere in like cases, purporting that those gentlemen that show them are charged for their whole estates where they live. And I believe if they were admitted generally through the Kingdom it would much advance His Majesty's service, and greatly ease many that are charged with horse. For there would not be any one horse the fewer by this means through the kingdom: for all estates may notwithstanding be charged with their proportion, though the whole number of horse charged upon any one man be showed in one county. And there will be little difficulty in the discovery of men's estates if this course, or a better, be taken therein; to wit, if the Deputy Lieutenants, finding an estate fit for this charge, be directed to certify the Lieutenant of the County where the owner liveth that his estate in their county is fit to be charged with a horse or horses, whereupon he shall be charged in like manner where his abode is. Neither will any county lose any considerable part of her defence hereby, for the defect will be supplied answerably on the other side by such who live in that county and have part of their estates elsewhere. And though perchance hereby some inequality of a horse or two may happen, yet it is in no ways considerable in respect of the benefit that will redound thereby to His Majesty's service and the ease of his subjects. For by the printed orders of the year 1626 all such as are charged with horse are strictly required upon pain of severe punishment to have both their horse and armour always ready upon an hour's warning; which is utterly impossible unless he that is charged keep his horse constantly in that place for which his charge is. Now the keeping of a horse in another county than where a man's abode is necessarily draws the charge of a servant to look to him, both which will amount yearly to the sum of 20*l.* Besides that horse and servant, having no other employment nor eye over them, the disorder of the servant with the loss of the horse is certainly to be expected. But for the prevention of these inconveniences almost every man sendeth horses from the place where he liveth into several counties, even the same both horse and armour which he showeth at home; or if his other lands lie far remote, some excuse is made or otherwise the present necessity is patched and supplied by borrowing of his friends: so as I daresay every county of England loseth part of her strength hereby, whereas His Majesty's service by the other course might be advanced, for there is no man that finds three horses in several counties but he had better find four or five at home. And besides, gentlemen for their reputations will have more care of that they show in their own county than where they are strangers. And all considerable inconvenience on the other side may be easily redressed by the care and correspondency of the Lieutenants. And yet the power of a Lord Lieutenant in his Commission is not restrained to his own county, but if he see cause he may and ought to employ the strength of his county in other places, as well for the conquering of rebels as for the suppressing of riots and unlawful assemblies of an inferior nature; which wholly takes away all objection of inconvenience and inequality of a horse, two or three, drawn away from any particular shire into another. Thus much

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I have presumed to offer to your consideration, and the rather because, upon conference had with some of my fellow deputies they seem to be of the same opinion. I pray God continue your good health and me in your good favour whilst I am your very obedient and thankful son.

1640, November. List of Accounts for lodgings, suppers, breakfasts, dinners, &c., of freeholders voting at the election of Sir John Coke the younger as Knight of the Shire (Derbyshire).

	Freeholders.		£	s.	d.
1. Mather, John	68	- - - -	4	5	0
2. Smith, Thomas	40	- - - -	3	13	0
3. Walten, Emme	12	- - - -	1	13	0
4. Ward, John	31	- - - -	5	1	6
5. Sore, Walter	73	- - - -	8	2	0
6. Notons, Willm.	20	- - - -	4	16	0
7. Pym, Thomas	6	- - - -	0	10	6
8. At the George	-	- - - -	0	7	0
9. Bearsley, Francis	6	(horses) - - -	0	2	9
10. Wandel, Margaret	13	(from the Peak) - -	1	6	6
11. Statham, Mrs.		(for wine, sugar, and tobacco which was for Sir Henry Willoughby's men, and wine into the town to Ed. Burnes and other places which was voices for Sir John Cooke) - - -	8	11	0
12. Wandel, Ann	8	- - - -	0	9	6
13. Hayward, Henry	5	- - - -	0	18	6
14. Bourne, Richard	20	- - - -	1	17	0
15. Parr, Phillip	26	Richard Greaves and his company and Long Eaton and Ripley men - -	5	16	6
16. Rusford, Robert	6	from Pinxton and Selston -	0	14	6
17. Davis, Robert	10	- - - -	0	15	0
18. Buck, William	71	Melbourne and Newton men and Mr. Hastings' company	5	1	0
19. Eaton, Humfrey	5	- - - -	1	3	2
20. Spicer, W. (at the Angel)	116	in 9 Chambers -	10	13	0
21. Bould, W. -	-	- - - -	0	17	0
22. Scampton, Thomas	53	- - - -	6	8	0
23. Domelow, John	24	- - - -	2	8	0
24. Green, Jarvis	63	- - - -	3	10	0
25. Mandsfield, John	34	- - - -	2	11	6
26. Roe, John	12	(from Monyash & Scarsdale)	2	8	0
27. Bourne, Edward (Rose and Crown)	133	- - - -	13	2	6
28. Hinckley, Eliz.,		Ale that Sir J. Coke's men had -	0	4	0
29. Stables, Thomas	11	- - - -	1	8	0
30. At the Talbot	240	- - - -	33	17	6
31.	16	- - - -			
32. Cordon, Richard		Wines - -	46	0	0
33. Shepheard, Gilbert	14	- - - -	1	8	4
34. Draper, Thomas	11	- - - -	1	16	7
35. White Hart for sack, beer, sugar, fire, and oats			-	0	7	8
36. Sack, claret, and tobacco			-	8	11	6
37. Gillot, Henry, to the Angel, Talbot, Crown, and several houses, tobacco at 5*d.* an ounce and pipes			-	2	16	8
			193	1	8

1640, November. Derby.—A Note of the number of those who had diet at the Talbot at the election of the Knights for the Parliament :—

On Wednesday night.—Supper in the Great Chamber, the Parlour, the Hall, the Kitchen - -	46	persons.	
On Thursday morning.—Breakfast in the Great Chamber, in the Buttery, in the Kitchen - -	16	„	
On Thursday.—Dinner in the Great Chamber, the Parlour, the Hall, the Stair, the Ceiled Chamber, the Green Chamber - - - -	240	„	

	£	s.	d.
	17	8	0

	£	s.	d.
For 3 hogsheads of beer - - -	4	10	0
1 Runlet of Sack, 12 gallons - -	3	4	0
1 Runlet of Claret wine - -	1	12	0
1 Runlet of White wine - -	1	12	0
1½ lbs. of tobacco - - -	0	12	0
A gross of pipes - - -	0	2	4
Strong ale - - - -	0	1	6
4 lbs. of sugar to brown wine with -	0	5	4
fires in your chambers - - -	0	6	0
broken glasses - - - -	0	6	0
	12	14	2
	30	2	2

For Sir John Coke his dinner of Tuesday before the Election :—

	s.	d.
For two joints of roast mutton and salad - -	3	4
a couple of pullets - - - -	2	0
for wine - - - - - -	2	0
for bread and beer - - - -	5	6
	12	10

	£	s.	d.
Hay for 40 horses. Wednesday night - -	0	13	4
40 horses. Thursday - - -	0	6	8
24 „ more the same day - -	0	4	0
54 pecks oats - - - - -	1	0	7
Sir John Coke's horses on Tuesday - -	0	1	6
	2	12	6

Received in full of these four bills 33*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, Thomas Jemeson.

(1640, November.)—Gilbert Shepheard's Bill for the Right Honble. Sir John Coke, Knight, for charges of certain freeholders that lay at his house as they came and went to Derby, to give him their voices to be one of the Knights of the Shire.

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	£	s.	d.
Impr. for 4 men of Okethorpe on Wednesday night for their suppers and breakfasts	0	4	0
for their horses lay all night—4 horses	0	1	0
for 4 pecks of provender	0	2	0
for 3 mens' suppers and breakfasts that came on foot from Smithsby the same night	0	3	0
for beer for the said 7 men over night and in the morning	0	2	0
Item for beer called for by 10 men of Appleby, Okethorpe, and Smithsby as they went back	0	4	4
Item for 7 men of the same towns that stayed all night for their suppers and breakfasts as they went back	0	7	0
for 4 horses hay	0	1	0
for 2 pecks of oats	0	1	0
for beer and tobacco besides over night and in the morning	0	3	0
Total sum	1	8	4

Account of Edward Bourne.—Rose and Crown.

"At the Second Meeting."

	£	s.	d.
For Wednesday night supper 46 men	1	10	8
For Thursday dinner 133 men	4	8	8
breakfast 7	0	3	6
Buns, cheese, butter, and bread	1	3	2
Tobacco and pipes	0	9	0
Two hogsheads of ale	3	0	0
Fifty horses one night at 4*d.* Sixty-seven horses one day at 3*d.* 16 bushels of oats	3	0	0
	13	2	6

1640, November 5. (Derby.)—A note for the Right Honble. Sir John Coke of William Spicer at the Angel

		£	s.	d.
Wednesday night before 22 gent at supper		1	2	0
For breakfast on Thursday		0	3	0
In the Hall at dinner on Thursday	19	0	19	0
Little Parlour	15	0	19	0
Long Parlour	35	1	15	0
Hall-Chamber	10	0	10	0
Cieled Chamber	16	0	16	0
New-Chamber	5	0	5	0
Boarded Chamber	1	0	1	0
Still Chamber	4	0	4	0
Kitchen	4	0	4	0
Afterwards in the Boarded Chamber	8	0	8	0
The sum is		7	2	0
Delivered in beer, manchent, nutmegs, and sugar		4	0	6
Your worship's horse meat comes to		1	9	2
So that the just sum in all is		12	11	8

Account of Jarvis Green :—

		£	s.	d.
In the Hall	35 men - - -	1	1	8
In the Parlour	3 - - -	0	2	0
In my Master's Chamber	9 - - -	0	6	0
In the Hall (again)	16 - - -	0	10	8
For a hogshead of beer drunk between meals	-	1	10	0
		3	10	4

A bill of Sir John Coke for the election to Thomas Stables—

	£	s.	d.
Supper, breakfast, and dinner for Godfrey Swift of Brampton, John Blyth of Norton, and Christopher Bower and Giles Cowley of Ashover - -	0	7	4
Eleven of your neighbours to dinner and for beer at times - - - - - -	0	15	4
Hay and provender for 8 horses - - -	0	6	2
	1	8	10

For Sir John Coke and Sir John Curzon—

Mr. Rolison of Norton, John Meriman of Hollinton, and Christopher Wood of Wilne meals and beer and provender - - - - -	0	6	11

(1643), (August 23, should be September.)—Mary Hartopp and Anne Sacheverell.

Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Daughters from London," "received 30 Sept." No year. No address. Much torn.

We make bold to present our [humble] duty to you and to let you know of our all being here. All things are quiet. We heard this news from the army from one that is there, that the King took our forces at a great disadvantage and hemmed them in and began before they were aware and so not ready, but they hasted to get ready and my Lord General did very bravely, and when the forlorn hope was unwilling to go he would have gone with them himself, but they would not suffer him, but he went up and down encouraging his soldiers and behaved himself very valiantly. The King's forces prevailed from morning till three o'clock in the afternoon, and then it pleased God to give our men the day. They won the field and followed them to Newbury and stood before the town all night, and in the morning gave them an alarm, but the King's forces were gone to Oxford, so my Lord and his army went into the town and refreshed themselves and then after that went to Reading. The number slain on our side is said generally to be 500, three good captains slain. They chiefly aimed against the London forces and shot with chain shot and all ways that would murder most cruelly. There [are on] their side slain a thousand bodies [ ] beside what they carried with them. My [Lord] Falkland is slain, the Earl of Sunder[land] and Lord Spencer slain, and my Lord [Carn]arvon and many more of note slain and taken prisoners. Sir William Waller is going speedily [to my] Lord General. Thus far we have made bold to acquaint you with the best news we have, fearing [ ]ble take leave remaining your most duty and obedient [daughter] Anne [Sacheverell].

Daughter Hartopp presents her humble duty and little [John] his.

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UNDATED, TEMP. JAMES I. AND CHARLES I.

No date.—Sir Thomas Edmonds to the King.

When your Majesty was pleased to command me to undertake the employment of France, I did readily submit myself thereunto. . . . I did largely issue of my own means, my preparations for the journey, which was meant should extend as far as Piedmont, costing me no less than 2,000*l.* before my going forth. The time of my employment, being designed only for three months, lasted for almost a whole year, which, increasing my charge, forced me to spend the greatest part of a large sum of money, which I had raised by the sale of the Clerkship of the Crown, and intended for the marriage portions of my two daughters. . . . I was forced to sell away the present that was given me and to make other hard shifts to release my debts and to defray my expense in my return. . . . By the affliction which I received in my absence, by the death of my wife, I lost 1,500*l.* a year, which I enjoyed by her jointure: besides to my further grief, I then also lost by the taking away of my board wages, well near the sum of 800*l.* by the year. . . . Whereas it pleased your deceased father of glorious memory to grant unto me a pension of 750*l.* a year payable out of the Court of Wards, upon the resigning of a patent of the Greenwax made to the Duke of Richmond and myself, the which by reason of Sir Myles Fleetwood's great neglect of me, is for the most part long detained from me, may it please your Majesty to approve that my said pension may be changed and transferred on the Household payments, and in lieu thereof, to the end that the House may receive no prejudice, that the like sum may be charged upon the Wards to be paid into the House, and that my said pension of 750*l.* may be increased to 1,000*l.*, wherein, as I hope my suit is modest, so I can instance favours which in this kind has been granted to others of my condition.

(No date, no signature.)—Lord Keeper Coventry to Sir John Coke.

[Indorsed by Sir John Coke, "Lord Keeper."]

Sir,—It may be you will find it necessary to read my letter to his Majesty or to show it to some other, and therefore I pray you give me leave by this private paper to yourself to . I conceive this business to be of moment, for as I have said heretofore in Starchamber and at Council Board, so I believe that the people of England have lost more by counterfeit farthing tokens and by other the consequences of this business than by all the counterfeit coins since the first year of Queen Elizabeth. And I do not see that this patent will any way remove, but rather increase the disease. I desire much that his Majesty should be rightly possessed of the business before his coming from Woodstock; for perchance at Windsor he will be set upon eagerly to pass it. For I perceive somebody was jealous I would stop it, and therefore put his Majesty on Sunday last to question me about it, when it had been but two days in my hand, and before I could read and perfectly understand it. You cannot but remember the debates that have been at the Council table about it; and now I see the advantage of a progress is taken to put it upon me to pass, when there is no Council Board held to which I might make my address for help or advice. If you could fitly acquaint my Lord of Canterbury with it before you speak to the King, and then move it to the King when he shall be present, I presume he would be sensible of so public a business and set it with you. This I leave to your own good consideration, and, if you think good, to use my name to him, and that it was my desire he should be acquainted with it. I leave that also to you, to do as you think best.

I beseech you when you have done what you think fit, convey the privy seal safe to me, with an advertisement what you have done, and how his Majesty doth relish the business, that I may know what shall be fit for me to do. And I desire that I may hear from you with as much expedition as you can. This private paper you will let none see but yourself, and when you have done with it, remit it to the fire.

Sir John Coke to [Lord Keeper?].

[Indorsed "Copy to the Lord Treasurer"]

Right Honourable,—According to your direction I have acquainted the Lord Archbishop with the contents of your letter; and took occasion to tell the King that I had received from your Lordship a letter concerning the stay made by you of the patent for farthing tokens; which in regard of the length and his Majesty's present occupations, I thought not fit to trouble him with till he had a free time: and because it seemed to me a matter of great importance both to his honour and the public, I desired that, by his leave, I might communicate it with my Lord's Grace, who was lately come to Court. This was granted: and upon conference with his Grace we attended this afternoon, and his Majesty patiently heard your letter, and our motions thereupon. My Lord Archbishop, both for respect to your Lordship, and sense of the prejudice that would grow by this grant, spake clearly and fully, relating what had passed both in the Starchamber and at the Council Board: and the Lord Marshal's earnest expressions thereupon. In conclusion his Majesty declared that, though he was willing to advantage my Lord Marshal, yet his intention was not to make him any other grant than before had been made by his father, without enlargement in any point. He commanded me therefore to let you know that he approved the stay you had [made], and that you should not let it pass till he spake with you further, when you came to Windsor. His Majesty did also let us know that this motion for my Lord Marshal's recompense in this particular proceeded from the Lord Treasurer; and that thereupon he was engaged to the Duchess, to pay her out of profits as much as she had made of it, which amounted to 1,000*l.* per annum. But though he had given charge to Sir Francis Crane to pay her duly, yet she complained that he had given her no contentment. This is all the account I can give your Lordship concerning that business. His Majesty hath also been pressed in the Earl of Carlisle's name to require your Lordship to pass the patent of Sir Purey Barton and Sir Philip Landon: but all he is pleased to do thereupon is to will your Lordship to acquaint him upon what reasons you made the stay; which you will be pleased to do when you come to court.

No date.—A paper indorsed by Sir John Coke "Lord of Collingham."

May it please your Majesty to give order to your Secretary of State Sir John Coke to draw a warrant that my Lord Treasurer and my Lord General may proceed in determining the case questionable betwixt the Earl of Ancram and me, with power to examine the Earl upon oath and to call before them Mr. Kirke and my lawyer Mr. Bosden of the Middle Temple. . . . And to signify your royal pleasure to their Lordships that, as your Majesty was pleased to allow the Earl of Ancram 1,500*l.* towards the relief of my burdens, which, as he alleged, he fully stood engaged for, but his engagements being found far short of that sum, the residue of the moneys may be reserved for my use, for the further satisfaction of my creditors, his Lordship having as yet not paid one farthing to any of my creditors, as I can sufficiently prove.

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(1631 or 1632).—King Charles 1st to All Souls College, Oxford.

[Draft by Sir John Coke indorsed "Copy of a letter for Sir David Fowles his sons."]

Trusty and well-beloved We greet you well. We are informed that Sir David Fowles (Foulis ?), our ancient servant, hath two sons in that our University capable of preferment. And that by the death of one Ash there is now a fellowship void in your house. We have no intention to strain your oaths, or by our commandment to enforce you to elect against your statutes, which we require you strictly to observe in all your elections. But if either of these brothers be eligible for their sufficiency in learning and behaviour, and that others of greater merit shall not be put back by this means, then we would recommend one of these two unto you. And if you elect either of them to this place, we shall accept it in gracious manner.

To our trusty and well-beloved the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College in Oxford.

Undated. [Endorsed by Sir John Coke.]

"A letter to his Majesty. This was found by his Majesty in his withdrawing chamber who delivered it to mee to keep till I could discover the author."

Sir,—For God's cause and your owne stepp upon the vantage ground of truth and reason, and there viewe the present state of affairs.

Then shall you finde that the greate worke in Germany seemes to be by you neglected. Your friends grow jealous of you. Dare not communicate counsells or designs with you, well knowing to whose views they shall come. . . . Your subjects at home unhappily distracted, full of fear, full of grief, to see you prepare craftie and artificial counsel before that of glory and safety, to see you undervalued abroade, misguided and ill-advised at home, to see [you] so to be circumstanced and wrought upon as by prodigious leases and grants to give a toleration of superstition and idolatrye. Besides, they are besett with just indignation to see men slaved to Rome and Spaine resort with confidence into your presence to be courted by your degenerate Lords and permitted even with approbation to vomitt forth their base expressions against the meritt and prosperities of your best friends and the happy restitution and establishment of your dearest sister and her royall children.

Then you shall see how disproportionable a thing it is that one man shall have the whole dependancy of the kingdom uppon him, being the sole master of your strength, of your treasure, and of your secrett affaires . . . . that dishonourable and unsafe peace with Spaine, unto whose service your owne wayes and those of your father hath here of late contributed more than the best army he hath in Christendom could possibly have effected. . . . It is humbly desired that your excellent Majesty will be pleased seasonably to call to you your Nobility, who are naturally the greate Counsell of the State, to advise you what course is fitt for you to take. . . . And in case upon their counsell it shall seem expedient for you to speak with your poor Commons in Parliament I am with reason confident that you shall find them full of dutie and affection to your Majesty. . . . It is true, Sir, and cannot be denyed but ought to be lamented, that you were justly provoked the last day of the last meeting, but God forbid that the fault of two or three should be expiated by the punishment, nay the ruin, of all; or that your Majesty's just indignation against these poor wormes, should debar your Majesty from the fruites of our love, or keepe from us the benefits of your goodness. It shall bee soe no more.

We shall not presume to touch upon your government. We shall behold your prerogative as a kind of sacred peice, not to be toucht with rude or violent hands. . . .

Your Majesties most loyall and faithfull vassall,

R. R

(1633, May $\frac{1}{11}$.)—A paper in the writing of Sir Francis Nethersole, indorsed by him "Note of moneys owing by Mr. Burlamachi to the Queen [of Bohemia] my Mistress and others that have relation to her Majesty."

	£
Mr. Burlamachi owes to the Queen my Mistress -	3,850
To Mr. Dineley her servant received out of the Exchequer without warrant, being money given him by your Majesty - - - -	1,000
To the town of Frankendale being the chief part of the jointure of her Majesty for moneys by them lent to the King your Majesty's father of blessed memory - - - - - -	4,552
In all - - -	9,402

Draft in Sir J. Coke's writing of a Latin letter from His Majesty (King Charles) to the King of Denmark, respecting the support promised by the latter to His Majesty's nephew, the Elector Palatine (sent by His Majesty's Ambassador).

No date.—Samuel Cooke. [Indorsed by Sir J. Coke "Letter to Lord Chancellor."]

Whereas I having employed a good stock of money in planting in Ireland and trading into England, wherein I have employed divers poor men, and am purposed through God's assistance and His Majesty's favour to proceed therein and to employ the greatest part of my estate in that kingdom. But both myself and my agents there have received so many and insufferable injuries by some of the natives that if I be not supported by authority I must be constrained to leave the kingdom. . . . . My cattle driven away or let out, my servants beaten, and when they struck in their own defence indicted and upon false suggestions committed. Myself with other inhabitants intending to go about the bounds of the parish met with long pitchforks, swords, and guns. I desire to be recommended to the Lord Deputy and Lord Chancellor of Ireland that I may obtain speedy justice against my injurious adversaries.

No date.—Memorial of Arthur Lake, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Francis Barber, James Bysse, Anthony Stocker, to the King in support of a Petition of the inhabitants of Corston, Co. Somerset, to grant Letters Patent for collection of a Benevolence in the adjoining counties for rebuilding their parish church, estimated to cost 400*l.* or upwards.

— July.—Lord Conway to Sir John Coke, Knight, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

[Indorsed by Sir J. Coke "complaint against the Constable of Ross by Childe."]

Upon a letter from the Lord Stanhope earnestly moving that some contemners of a warrant of his granted to one Mr. Charles Childe to ride post might be sent for I received this inclosed information from

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Mr. Childe. I sent a warrant for Merricke and Abrall, the men complained of, to appear before the Lords. I have also caused Mr. Childe, who is to be found in the Temple, to put his name to the Information, and if his complaint shall be found frivolous he must pay the messengers' fees, and give allowance to the men of such reasonable costs as shall be ordered, to all which he hath submitted.

September 5. Rhen.—Elizabeth, Electress Palatine, to Mr. Secretary Coke.

I give you many thanks for the care you had in sending me the King my dear brother's cover. I writ an answer to it which I will send to Sir William Boswell having not time to do it now because this bearer doth make so much haste as I have not time to scarce to say thus much to you only I must entreat you to give this worthy honest man the best assistance and counsel you can. He will tell you how his case stands here, and what he leaves for the King's service if he so command it: what other news of the army he can tell you, and for my affairs you shall have all from Sir William Boswell, so I rest your very affectionate friend.

October 21. Rhen.—Elizabeth, Electress Palatine, to Mr. Secretary Coke.

I must not send my son to kiss the King his uncle's hand but withal recommend him to your care that you will continue your love to me, and show it by your care of my son. This bearer Rustorf can so well inform you of all things as I need not take the pains to do it, especially being in haste, the wind being now good, which he has stayed for this fortnight at the least, but I am glad he did so having in the meantime received a kind letter from the King my dear brother which assures me of his willingness to see his nephew, it doth comfort me very much. I have commanded him to be diligent in waiting and serving his uncle. I hope he will do it for he goeth with a great deal of affection and zeal to him. I again entreat you to show your love to me in him and to believe me ever your affectionate friend.

No date.—"Survey of fisheries within the King's dominions." "A brief Survey of the fishings within your Majesty's dominions neglected by the natives and used by strangers to their inestimable profit."

Your sacred Majesty having largely considered out of history and experience how that industry and diligence have been the steps of raising of mean estates to the height of power and wealth, I forbear to trouble your Highness with discourse upon this point and take me only to represent unto your Majesty how the Belgic Pismires by their industry have out of the treasure of your Majesty's seas abated the pride of their enemies and enriched and strengthened their State, and how justly we your Majesty's subjects of this Isle may be taxed and our progenitors for our neglect of so great a blessing which the bounty of Heaven hath (as it were) cast at our doors and we never yet stooped to take it up. * * It is not above 100 years since that one Violet Stephens and other discontented fishmongers departed the realm of England and went to Enchusan (Enkhuizen) in Holland where they procured the Hollanders upon their charge to fish for them in the seas and dominions of Great Britain. And after the death of the said English the inhabitants took the whole trade to themselves which afterwards hath been dispersed into many towns in the Netherlands, and the trade is now so far increased that Holland and Zealand have above 2,000 busses of fishing ships which yearly do make two or three returns although they be remote from the seas of England, Scotland, and

Ireland. And such is the blessing of God prospering their endeavours and travails that above 600,000 last of fish are taken yearly in the dominions of Great Britain only, which doth amount to ten millions of pounds sterling, as by the books of the Brigmasters and Wharfmasters of that State doth appear. * * And to let your Majesty know so far as by inquiry or reading I could learn the manner of the Netherlanders fishing in your Majesty's seas is this. They set to sea their busses about the middle of May and by the first of June (their style) they are seen to sail out of the Maese Texel and Vlie 1,000 sail together, being most of them 120 or 100 tons and some 60 tons, having aboard in every ship some 24 some 20 some 16 men: holding on their course till they come to Shetland in your Majesty's kingdom of Scotland. And about the 14th of June (a day kept by them first to lay their nets and not before) they begin to fish and do never leave the schools [shoals] of herring but come along amongst them following 500 miles in length, lading their ships twice or thrice before they come to Yarmouth in England, and sending them away by merchant ships who meeting them on their way bringeth them victuals, barrels, and more salt and nets if they need any. And these ships do carry and sell them in the east countries, some to Riga and Revel, some to the Norway, Russia, Stockholm, and all Poland, Prussia, Pomerland, Lithuania, Stettin, Lubeck, and Denmark, returning from there hemp, flax, cordage, cables, iron, soap ashes, wax, wainscot clapboards, pitch, tar, deals, hoops, and other things with plenty of money; besides what fishes is carried by them into France, Germany, sold in England and Scotland and in their own country and in the Arch Duchess' territories, amounting to an incredible mass of money. Their fishing for cod and ling is done continually with smaller ships of 40 tons burthen called pinks and flyboats, and of them they have 200 or more having small boats with them, and by means of them cod and ling is taken about the Isle of the Lewis in great abundance. * * Recommends settling a trade and plantation in the Lewis with 200 busses, besides this new mystery of making of salt of such perfect goodness and such plenty within your Majesty's dominions, serviceable for all uses of the subjects thereof whereof the like hath not formerly been. * *

Copies of Acts of James 3 (1471), James 4 (1493), James 6 (1597).

No date. (1639 probably.)—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Berwick Establishment," and the paper in his writing.

The Governor besides his fee had the Castle hills enclosed, and the outer Castle hills not enclosed, and Lumsden Anna, Hew water Harth and water mills, and the royal fishings on the north side of Tweed.

To be continued.—,

The Treasurer's place, Gentleman Porter, Master of Ordnance, Controller of the Cheque, Master Mason, Master Carpenter, 80 horse, or what number shall please His Majesty considering his office of Governor. Master Gunner 2*s.* 6*d.*, master's mate 16*d.* 11*d.* a piece and 60 gunners at 8*d.*

1 Trumpeter, 1 Chirurgeon to stand.

Captains 8, Lieutenants 8, Ancients 8, Sergeants 8, Drums (?) 8, and 500 soldiers divided into 8 Companies.

A preacher to be continued at 50*l.* to serve garrison and town.

Artificers to stand and exception of bowyers and fletcher.

Cellarage but as occasion shall require.

Post boat stand 2 stand.

Castle to be bought, 4 particulars Holy Island, Fern Island, Tynemouth Castle, Worck Castle, all in the establishment as belonging to the Earl's marcher.

Total { Men, 980. / Money, 12,734*l.*

To be discontinued.

The Warden's place, The Marshal, to cease the land being disposed to the town, Mayor's fee, and the Custom House Officer, 8 Constables, 42 foot officers of the old garrison, 2 clerks of the watch, 6 captains discharged and all the pensioners following, Assistants to the Watch.

(Over the page.) Present muster book.—The regiment of 2,000 foot artillery men and engineers.

No date.—As to making the Wye navigable to Hereford. Sir William Sandys' method of making locks and weirs was not only chargeable but proved very ineffectual, being founded on so rapid a river; the work was very fatal to his family.

No date.—A letter from Pietro Martire Mastignon, in Italian, faded and illegible.

No date.—A Latin list of the Electors and Princes of the Empire, "Finis Principum Spiritualium et Temporalium Imperii qui sunt numero 138."

No date.—In Spanish. Cost to the King of Spain of the Government in Flanders.

No date.—Note of Flemish goods in custody of the Mayor of Plymouth, Mr. Christopher Harris and Stallenge out of the St. Simon of Hamburg.

No date.—"The petition concerning brass battery" [making brass utensils from copper] of James Burett a citizen of Acon (Aachen?) in High Germany.

No date.—"Payments formerly made by the Keeper of the Privy Purse now paid by the Treasurer of the Chamber upon warrant of the Lord Chamberlain."

In the late Queen's time.		In our late King's time.
Anno 43.	Anno 44.	Anno 19 Regis Jacobi.
	Increased since Queen's Elizabeth's time.	
Presenting of plays and bearbaiting, 120*l.*		
&c.	&c.	

Lodging of sundry persons out of the Court, viz.:—His Majesty's Physicians, His Apothecaries, His Surgeons, His Barber, His Clockmaker, Secretary for the Latin tongue.
Sir Wm. Alexander, Archibald Hay, and divers others. In all, 622*l.*

No date.—"Clause of the letter mentioned in my Despatch to Mr. Secretary Coke." Cloth manufacture in Westphalia described.—"Excellent methods."

No date.—"Consultatio Medica" for a tumour. "Spadensibus aquis."

No date.—A Medical Prescription:—Capiat cum aequali parte vini albi et syrupi quolibet mane jejunus.

No date.—"2 H. 3. pro villa Salop firmanda." Copy of Letters Patent.

No date.—"Concerning great wrong and grievance done to my gracious Sovereign King Charles in His Royal prerogative in his princely pre-eminence his Majesty's revenues, debts, and duties." A scheme for improving the Revenue.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir John Coke. "Sir William Boswell's Memorial." As to inhabitants in the Netherlands obtaining grants of land in Ireland.

(1616?)—Sir Arthur Ingram and others. Gunpowder and Alum. Imperfect draft by Sir J. Coke.

"L'Assemblée à Rouen, France" (temp. Henri 4) (a fragment).

Sir Robert Vaughan's Will. Notes of an argument thereon. Imperfect draft by Sir J. Coke.

"The Report of the Committees for the plantation at Londonderry in Ireland." [1628 or later.] Imperfect draft by Sir J. Coke.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Mr. Prynne." "William Prynne a prisoner in the Tower for certain offensive and indiscreet passages unadvisedly fallen from his pen in a book intituled Histrio-mastix," abjectly asks pardon.

Without date.—Petition of inhabitants of Lincolnshire to Sir John Coke, Principal Secretary of State, stating that they the trained band of the County had by a weekly exercise attained to excellent knowledge and readiness in their arms, but they had been pillaged by strange Commanders of the forces now sent out of the County. Asks that the King may be moved to give authority to the County Captains or Lieutenants to take a true information of the sums that had been exacted.

Without date.—Petition to the King of W. Bamfield, for forty years one of the sweepers at Whitehall, asking that Counsel may be appointed to open his case in the Parliament House upon his claim to lands in Wolmerton and other places in Devon.

Without date.—Petition to the King of Sir Phillibert Vernatt and John Corselis, asking a declaration as to the scope of a reference already ordered in the matter between them and Sir Cornelius Vermuyden.

Without date.—Portions of two draft notes by Sir J. Coke on mischiefs in the Navy Administration. Allowances to Admirals. Payment of mariners at sea, &c. One of the notes is altered in the writing of Sir Fulke Grevill.

Without date.—Proposed regulations for the Navy Administration.

Without date.—Answer of John Brown, His Majesty's Founder of Ordnance, to the petition of the clothiers of Cranbrooke in Kent to the Lords of the Council with regard to the consumption of wood in their respective trades.

Without date.—"The principal heads concerning His Majesty's Navy wherein we desire to be informed for the better enabling of us to discharge our duties to His Majesty and the State." Information to be required from the Commissioners of the Navy.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of Mayor and Commonalty of the City of New Sarum, to stay proceedings in a matter

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between them and the Bishop, Dean, and Canons of the Cathedral Church, touching their respective incorporation by charter.

Without date.—A brief description of the Barbadoes by Capt. John Fincham.

Without date.—Sale of woods to be made in certain Forests and Parks, with reasons and cautions for the sales there.

2 James 1st.—Office of Treasurer of the Navy surrendered by Sir F. Grevill and granted to Sir R. Maunsell. Statement of account.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of Dame Elizabeth Bodvell, Widow, for a reference of matters respecting her deceased husband's estate and her son's wardship.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of Ralph Starkey as to a conveyance by his father unduly procured, and destruction of his will by which it had been revoked, asking a reference.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of Robert Tirwhitt for a Billet office to be kept in the Court of the Marches of Wales.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of John de la Croix, French merchant, stating that one Thomas Violett had caused his goods to be attached and sold, and asking a reference to the Lord Mayor and some Aldermen and Merchants.

Without date.—Appeal of Lady Lake. Names of the Counsel and of those nominated for Judges delegate.

Without date.—Petition to the King in Council of Alex. Stewart, stating that he had proffered to be Agent in Russia for furnishing munition for the Navy but being opposed by the Muscovia Company, asks a reference to the Lord Treasurer.

Without date. — Petition to the King in Council of Sir Ranulph Crewe, Knt., stating that in a suit by him against Lord Cholmley, in the Exchequer, at Chester, for fees, tolls, and liberties at Nantwich, decrees had been given in his favour, but Lord Cholmley had procured a letter of His Majesty to the judges there, dated 30 March 1634, tending to enervate those decrees. Asks recall of that letter.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Thomas Cordwell," asks place of usher of the Court of Rolls.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Robert Hambleton," for a lease of the Manor of Bewick in Northumberland.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Mr. Latch his petition," for a new grant of the office of Engrossing Commissions of Bankrupt.

No date.—Printed paper, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Sir Thomas Monson's case, Parliament." Notes on his claim to fees as Secretary of the Court of the Council of York.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "John Delamare," for recovery of his father's estate in Westmeath in possession of John Nugent Fitz Edmund under a forged deed.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Geratt FitzGerald (of Dromany) for leave to go into Ireland to sue his livery."

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "John Lambe" a prisoner in the King's Bench as a conjuror.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "George Beardsworth for a place in the Charterhouse."

No date.—Petition to Sir J. Coke, indorsed by him, "Richard Johnson to me." The Petitioner [a cook] in Dover prison offers to give information against Captain Clarke.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Thomas Persons" [of Westminster, Knight of the Sun] "Thomas Jarvis" [of Lyme] "Proposition," asking an audience or a reference to men of Somerset and Dorset.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Sir Robert Spotswood, Knight" [President of the Court of Justice in Scotland], "for land in Ireland."

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed "Michael Leigh and William Hood, prisoners in the Fleet," for killing a stag in Eltham Great Park.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed "Susan Hamlett, a Frenchwoman" from Rochelle, convicted of the murder of her child in Cornwall.

No date.—"The Case" of Walter Bourke of Turlogh, County Mayo, who petitions the King that his land be not taken for plantation.

No date.—Petition to the King, of "John Peirs, Esquire," claiming to be grantee of the office of Registrar of the Archbishop's Exchequer Court of York.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed "Edmund Dunck, Esquire, Sheriff of Berkshire, to have leave to reside in Gloucestershire."

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed "Concerning the Lord Mountnorris." Sir Thomas Phillips states that books of the late Deputy Lord Chichester relating to plantation in Ireland are now in the hands of Sir Francis Annesley Lord Mountnorris, and should be obtained for the King's service.

No date.—Petition to the King of Phillippa Parburie, that Bartholomew Battens convicted of the murder of her husband may be executed.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Lord Stanhope's reasons for surrender." His patent as Master of the Letter Office being void—Reasons for a new grant to him considered.

No date, (1626).—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Countess of Lincoln's petition." Bridget, wife of Theophilus Clinton 4th Earl of Lincoln, prays for access to her husband in the Tower. (He was imprisoned for refusing to subscribe to the forced loan.)

No date.—Petition to Sir J. Coke, indorsed by him, "Captain Wood to me." Asks support to his petition for satisfaction for his services in foreign parts.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Aldermen of Yarmouth." Owners of the ship Hannah trading to Bilboa, ask relief—their ship detained, men illused, and money taken.

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No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Richard Joy" under sentence of death in the common gaol of the White Lion in Southwark for 5 kine. "A letter of reprieval sent."

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "John Willoughby" of Northlewe, Devon. Asks a "Reference" for a settlement with his creditors.

No date.—Petition to Sir J. Coke, indorsed by him, "Thomas Thornton to me," to be admitted into Sir J. Coke's service.

No date.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "John Newell, Bachelor of Arts," asks for a Fellowship in All Souls, Oxon, with a certificate of character by John Holt, President of Corpus Christi.

1623, May 10.—Petition to the King, indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "John Worral, glassmaker, refused."

No date (1632?)—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Prisoners demanded by Monsieur de Chaumont." Mémoire des prisonniers des quels sa Majesté a accordé la delivrance à Monsieur de St. Chaumont Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de France. . . . Palmer au Fleet, Thomas Smith à Gate-house, Edward Ditchfield à Lancaster Castle, Jean Southwarth à Gate-house.

No date.—Request of Sir Rauulph Crewe that His Majesty may be informed that he desired at first a reference of the controversy with Lord Cholmondeley. Asks that men of knowledge and integrity may hear and end the difference, as jury would be affected and partial in that country.

No date.—Robert, Lord Cholmondeley, hopes that it will stand with His Majesty's gracious pleasure that he shall have liberty to take his trial by law.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "To Sir John Bridgeman and Sir Marmaduke Lloyd, Justices for Chester. Copy of His Majesty's letter for Sir Rand. Crewe."

(Draft by Sir J. Coke.)—There is (as we hear) some difference fallen out betwixt the Lord Cholmondeley and our old and faithful servant Sir Randal Crew. We consider that his years and course of life make him now unfit for suits of law, specially in the country where he hath been long a stranger and against a potent adversary. We would therefore have you take the cause into your hands and to do your best endeavour to end it by friendly agreement if you can.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Sir Robert Bannisters relation for the grant of sweet wines." The late Queen Elizabeth had until about the 20th year of her reign sweet wines called sack taken by at 6*l.* per butt, and muscatels at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per butt. Subsequent contracts for the household, and the general trade at London described.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir John Coke, "Muster-master of Cumberland." Rough abstract of same letter.

"The names of the Deputy Lieutenants are :—Sir Patricius Curwen, Sir John Dalston, Sir Richer Fletcher, Sir Henry Blencoe, Sir Thomas Carleton and others."

No date.—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Giles Penn for letters of marque for the merchants of Bristol," who desire to set forth three

ships to be armed for the surprising of Turks and Moors with all other such pirates and enemies of his Majesty.

No date.—Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Order required for the soldiers stayed at Gravesend."

No date.—"Allowances for packets. Received from Sir Will. Uvedall." The word "foreign" interlined by Sir J. Coke.

No date.—A draft by Sir J. Coke, indorsed "Warrant to Mr. Attorney for a proclamation [against exportation of] fuller's earth."

No date.—A rough draft by Sir J. Coke, indorsed by him, "Lubeck." Answer by the Council to the complaint of the Lubeck agents.

No date.—A rough draft by Sir J. Coke of Notes for a Treaty. To contract as well for the infantry as cavalry of Hessen, &c.

1633, December.—Certificate of officers of the Court of the Marches of Wales against proposed grant to R. Wigmore of the office of Entering Causes, &c., signed by Jo. Bridgeman, W. Overbury, and others.

No date.—Regulations for the Council of the Marches of Wales. A fragment.

No date, (1628 ?)—"A Memorial of a standing provision for trade issued out in the 20th year of King James and 1st of King Charles of great importance for His Majesty's benefit if it were put in execution, neglected these 3 years."

Papers without Date.

To the Right honorable the Lords of his Maty.'s Most honorable Privie Counsell.

The humble peticion of Sr Allen Apsley knight Lieutenant of the Tower humbly sheweth that there are 4 Frentchmen that have been long cloase prisoners in the Tower and have no frends to sollicett in their behalf.

Minute thereon by Sr John Coke :—"Resolved by the Lords and allowed by his Maty. that Senngual (?) and his sonne and Short bee al discharged and sent away for France."

Richard Sandes.—A letter to the King, that at his Majesty's pleasure he will lay open those sundry ways for raising of money with the good liking of the subjects, for setting forth an army for placing the Prince Elector and the virtuous Lady his wife and royal issue and nobility into their just inheritance.

J. Setone. Edinburgh.—A Monsieur de Malmy Agent pour le Roi de France aupres du Roi de la Grande Bretagne en Cour. Etant arrivé en ce pays pour voir mes parens et pour donner ordre a mes affaires Monseigneur le Chancelier me fit prisonnier sans m'accuser d'aucune chose sinon que c'etait la volonté du Roi. Je vous prie de voir sa Majesté : aussitot que je pourrai donner quelque ordre ici pour mes affaires je me rendrai aupres sa Majesté pour repondre de mes actions. . . .

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George Goring to the Lord Goring (his father).
Recommending his friend Sir Jacob Astley, who goes to England with 4 months' leave from the Prince of Orange.

"A means to restore the Lord Viscount Falkland to his troop and company" by suggested reductions of the troops of the Lord Moore and the Lord Chichester, of the Lord Blany's Seneschal's fee, &c.

Minute by Sir John Coke.
Two challenges were sent one by Sir Francis Wortley the other by the Lord Carlingford [Swift]. Upon the first they met and by company coming in were prevented. Upon the second made by the Lord they met again and fought, and then the Lord Carlingford being hurt Gillman their second (who is since slain) did part them. Both remain in Yorkshire and no notice taken of the offence. His Majesty being informed of this breach of his proclamation requireth Mr. Attorney to prosecute them in the Star Chamber at the King's suit.

Dorothy Carey (widow of Valentine Carey, Bishop of Exeter) to Sir J. Coke.
Asks her brother Sir J. Coke to move the Lord Keeper on her behalf, her suit being appointed by him to be heard on Monday next.

Thomas Withrings (London) to Sir John Coke (in Derbyshire).
Has delivered letters to Mr. Weckherlin who has returned them and they have been despatched according to order. Asks directions for sending letters when his Honour leaves Derbyshire. King, Queen, Prince and Princess are at Greenwich.

Letter from a Priest newly come to Brussels, partly to discharge his own function in hearing confessions, partly to help in visitation of religious houses, their state described, complains that alms sent have not been 50*l.* in seven months.

Pierre du Moulin (the younger) a M. le Chevalier Coke, Secretaire Principal.
Equidem meæ mihi tenuitatis et ignorantiæ sum conscius nec me latet quam patrem sequar non passibus æquis—mihi nunc incumbit scripturæ textus in Ecclesia Gallica intra dies decem Deo dante homiliam habituro. Sum præterea in clerum Anglicanum adoptatus et sacro diaconatus ordine insignitus. Me quoque vatem Dicunt pastores sed non ego credulus illis. Denique decrevi Cantabrigiensem Academiam adire et baccalaureatum mihi poscere.

Indorsed by Sir J. Coke, "Lord Conway to the Lords."
It is the opinion of the Earl of Essex and the rest of the Colonels here that the pay of all ranks of officers is less than in any other State.

Draft.—Sir J. Coke to Fabian Smith, His Majesty's Agent in Persia.
The Commission for his Agency has been sent by Sir John Merick and the Company. He should assist Mr. Nightingale to recover a debt from James Vicars in that country.

Extract from the Will of John Powell of Preston, in the County of Hereford (father of Sir John Coke's first wife), as to a lease of roots and stools of trees in Dean Forest granted by the procurement of Mr. Secretary Coke to Eleanor James, widow, a daughter of Mr. Powell, for and in his behalf.

Lord Wilmot protests his unwillingness to fly from his submission: he was advised by his counsel that if he did make his answer upon oath according to his submission in the Star Chamber he would have fallen into the danger and infamy of perjury: the King's title to the lands might be prejudiced by his answering the bill in the Exchequer.

William Burrell to the Commissioners of the Navy (?)
Proposes that 40 sail may be in readiness for the keeping of the narrow seas against attempts to be made out of Dunkirk or the French coast and against the passing of great fleets of heavy burden, by having on board each coal ship 3 gunners and 39 soldiers which no doubt in one summer would prove good mariners. The means to be obtained out of the coals by stricter measurement for the King's customs of the coal carried; for the owners of the coal pits give extraordinary great measure so as every ship doth make out two chaldrons for one of what they take in at Casell (Newcastle). This will appear by examining what they did lade at Casell with the meters' books in London. The King to have the over measure towards the maintenance of the 40 sail of men of war. The consideration of this proposition may be brought before the King and my Lord Duke.

Petitions.

Canada Company to Sir John Coke.
For the patent to Captain Kirk and against the patent to Sir Wm. Alexander under the Great Seal of Scotland.

Edward Courtenay to the Queen.
To be discharged without being bound to good behaviour.

Sir William Gilbert to the King.
For a grant of the fee farm of the Castle of Maryborough in Ireland.

Haggett to the King.
For a valuable entertainment as decypherer.

Postmaster for foreign letters.
Matthew de Quester to the Lords of the Council in respect of his patents from King James and King Charles.

Henry Billingsley and Merchants of London to the Commons House of Parliament, asserting an authority from Lord Stanhope and complaining of abuses by de Quester.

Portsmouth.—Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses to Sir John Coke.
Against John Brookes, Clerk of the Cheque, who with William Bold of Gosport bought salt laden in a French barque in the harbour to sell again contrary to the privilege of the Corporation.

1684–5.—"List of all His Majesty's Commissioned Officers in His Guards, Garrisons, and Land Forces with the dates of their respective Commissions."

	Captains.
First Troop of Horse Guards Granadiers	Duke of Albemarle.
Second „ „ „	Duke of Northumberland.
Granadiers	Earl of Feversham.

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In the above 3 Regiments the Lieutenants, Cornets, Guidons, Quarter Masters, Brigadiers, an Adjutant, a Marshal and a Chyrurgeon are also specified by name.

Regiments of Horse	-	-	- Sir John Parsons.
,,	-	-	- Sir Francis Compton.
,,	-	-	- Sir Charles Windham.
,,	-	-	- Edwin Sandys.
,,	-	-	- Sir Thomas Slingsby.
,,	-	-	- Herc. Cornwall.
,,	-	-	- Wal. Littleton.
,,	-	-	- Charles Adderley.

In the Regiments of Horse—7 Lieutenants, 7 Cornets, 7 Quarter Masters, an Adjutant, and a Chryrurgeon are specified by name.

There are also specified by name in the—

First Regiment of Foot Guards—26 Captains, 27 Lieutenants, 21 Ensigns.

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards—Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, 11 Captains, 14 Lieutenants, 12 Ensigns.

Queen's Regiment of Foot—Major, 8 Captains, 10 Lieutenants, 8 Ensigns.

Queen Dowager's Regiment—Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, 9 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 10 Ensigns.

Prince George, Hereditary Prince of Denmark's Regiment—Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, 11 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 12 Ensigns.

Holland Regiment—Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, Major, 9 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 11 Ensigns.

Royal Regiment of Dragoons—Colonel, Lieut.-Colonel, 4 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 6 Cornets.

Garrisons.

Tower of London.	Guernsey.
Gravesend, Tilbury.	Portsmouth.
Hull.	Upnor Castle.
Isle of Scilly.	Plymouth.
Carlisle.	Borders of Berwick.

1688, May 16.—Rotterdam. Chauvin, M.

Monsieur Thomas Coke est venu loger chez moi le lundi seizième de Mai de l'année courante, et sa pension a été reglée avec Monsieur son père à cinq cent livres par an monnaie de Hollande. J'ai reçu en deduction de la dite somme dix guinées, valans douze livres la piéce. A Rotterdam ce 16e de May mil six cent quatre vingt huit. Mon adresse est à Chauvin, franse predicant op de botter sloot in de Roomse Keyser à Rotterdam.

(1638, June 4.)—Rotterdam. Chauvin, M., à Monsieur Coke à Londre. Depuis que Monsieur votre fils est sous ma discipline, je l'ai etudié avec soin, et je croi le connoitre. Il a le naturel bon, et de bonnes inclinations; mais comme il est jeune, il a besoin d'être un peu excité. La langue francoise lui paroit difficile, et il aimeroit mieux travailler deux heures à autre chose, qu'une heure à la traduction francoise, qu'il n'a commençé que depuis peu de jours. Cependant je le tourne de ce côté-la principalement, sans le rebuter: et j'espére qu'il y faira des progrés qui vous satisfairont . . . . Il a achevé de faire

la construction des fables de Phedre, qu'il mettra au net, pour vous les envoier. Je ne croy pas qu'il faille encore luy donner un maitre d'arithmetique, pour ne le pas trop fatiguer par deux sortes d'études, ou il seroit tout neuf: en deux mois de tems il pourra commencer. Cependant il s'exerce à jouer du violon, ce qui le divertit en l'appliquant. . . . Outre la joye que j'aurai infailliblement en faisant mon devoir, j'en aurai une seconde de vous rendre un jour votre fils un peu mieux fait que je ne l'ay reçu. Ma femme fait de son côté ce qu'elle peut pour votre fils, et je croy qu'il est assez content de nous. J'ay dans la maison des jeunes messieurs avec lesquels il vit fort doucement, et un de ceux-là, qui est fils à un Conseiller du Parlement de Paris, ne luy sert pas peu pour la langue francoise dans le tems de leurs divertissements. Nous irons, s'il plait à Dieu, dans la semaine prochaine à la Haye, et de là à Houslardik pour y voir Mr. Stanly Chapelain de Madame la Princesse. Nous avons deja visité ensemble Mr. Du Bosc, qui m'a prié de vous saluer très humblement de sa part. J'iray chez luy tantôt parce qu'il a dessein d'écrire à Mr. Sion. Si vous me le permettrez je prendrai l'occasion de saluer ce bon serviteur de Dieu, que je connoy aujourdhuy pour l'auteur de la Morale de l'Evangile, l'aiant appris par Mr. Du Bosc. Son ouvrage est plein d'esprit et de piété, et par consequent tres digne de luy. Le public l'a tres bien reçu, et on le lit avec beaucoup de satisfaction. Je l'honore comme je le dois, et je luy suis tout acquis. J'ay autrefois connu à Nîmes un proposant de son nom, et de sa même patrie: si c'etait le même de qui je parle, j'en aurois une extrême joye. . . . . Je vous prie de vous reposer un peu sur moy pour ce qui regarde Mr. vôtre fils, que j'aime comme mon enfant, et que j'eléverai aussi comme si j'etois son propre père.

1688–9, January 17.--A paper indorsed "Mr. Fraunciss Bill concerning Election and receit." (Derby Borough.)

	£	s.	d.
pd for five hoggs of ale - - -	12	10	0
pd for 10 lbs. of tobacco - - -	1	0	0
pd to the poor of the town - - -	10	0	0
pd to the Ringers - - - -	2	10	0
pd to 2 sergeants - - - -	1	10	0
pd to the Cryer - - - -	1	0	0
pd to the Town's Marshall - - -	0	2	6
pd Mrs. Heathcoate for wines and tongues (?) &c. - - - - - -	4	0	0
pd in the last Entertainm^{t} - - -	2	0	0
	34	12	6
pd to the prisoners - - -	0	10	0
	35	2	6

£	s.	d.	
17	11	3	Received the contents above
17	11	3	17*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* by me Will^{m} Franceys
35	2	6	

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1688–9, January 21. London.—F. Hopegood's Account with John Coke.

	£	s.	d.
1684, July 10, paid for 2 Hogsheads Clarrett -	22	0	0
to charge on do. - -	0	7	6
„ 17, paid for Rhennish wine - -	4	13	0
1685, June 1, paid for 2 Hogshead Clarrett -	22	10	0
„ November 17, to himself when in the Tower - - - - -	64	10	0
1686, April 10, paid for a tierce of Clarrett -	7	0	0
May 21, for three hatts for your daughters	1	13	0
June 30, for a feather for Mrs. Mary -	0	11	0
„ for 2 hogsheads Clarrett -	24	0	0
March 24, for do. do. - -	24	0	0
1687, October 36, for a black beaver - -	2	15	0
„ July 17, for a bill of f. 160 payable to M. Chauvin in Rotterdam -	14	11	0
1688, August 22, to cost and charges of an Aam of Rhennish wine - -	11	2	3
for a black beaver and box -	2	16	0
	202	8	9

1696, July 31. Astead.—Francis Hopegood to Thomas Coke, chez Messrs. Scharenborg & Francq à Anvers.

Last Holland post brought me your two letters of 27th July and 2nd August N.S., the former from Rotterdam, the latter from Antwerp. I am glad you had so favourable a passage over sea. . . . There will be no occasion of depositing any Band Bills in my hands, for let it come to the last extremity, I have enough of them by me to accommodate you: but doubt not if there be money to be paid Mr. Fisher will find it out, looking . . . . he is very diligent in your service, and really careful of your honour. . . . I shall go tomorrow to Puttney Bowling Green, where I hope to meet Mr. Evans, expecting to hear of John Gardiner by him. If he be departed, no doubt but he will be with you before this reaches your hands. If not I shall write him to Gravesend about the musketoons you desire. I am sure you cannot have a worse opinion of the Devil's children than I and all Englishmen ought to have: but we have most reason to curse ourselves for trusting our greatest enemies to our own ruin. But what shall I say? From a D——— Alliance, a greedy C———t and mercenary P———t, good Lord deliver us? Nothing but a peace can retrieve us, money growing scarcer and scarcer every day; and I am afraid Myn-Heer B——— comes but to encrease our wants. My service to Jennens.

1698–9, February 5. (Baggrave).—Elizabeth Edwyn to Thomas Coke.

I have notice given me that I must leave the house and grounds I rent of you at Baggrave at Mayday. My husband and his father have been tenants to the family fourscore years. It is a great trouble to me that is a widow very near fourscore years of age that I must be forced out of my house and grounds like a bad tenant that cannot pay my rent and to have no reason given me why it must be so. My late landlord your father was pleased to say he would not see my husband nor myself wronged in any respect, and we laid out many a score pounds on his estate, which is well known to Sir Francis Burdett. My son once said

he would give me something to go out, but if you turn me out you force me to stoop to my cradle, and sure you will not encourage a disobedient son. You have been informed that I have two houses of my own and indeed I have: but one is but eleven shillings a year and the other is a little better, but part of it is fallen down. I was of a good family and was well educated and had a thousand pounds to my portion, and am very unwilling to live in such poor cottages as my own are. . . But if I must turn out, I desire that you will let me know the reasons why it must be so, that my friends as well as myself may be satisfied. Good Sir, consider it is a widow that writes to you in tears, and desires nothing of you but justice. Yourself once promised me I should not be wronged.

1698–1703. Extracts from bills paid by Lady Mary Coke.

		£	s.	d.
1698.	One suit pink changeable knots - -	0	10	6
	One scarlet girdle - - - -	0	4	6
1698, November.	8 yards silver Tishua at 35*s.* -	14	0	0
„	6 yards broad tabbe at 11*s.* - -	3	6	0
„	18¼ yards gold coloured velvet at 23*s.* - - - -	20	19	9
1699.	One fine tortoise shell stick to a fan - -	0	1	10
	1¾ yards fine French gauze for scarf - -	0	12	9
	One quarters schooling for the page, Keightley	0	17	0
	A fine laced toilette - - - -	14	0	0
	36 pairs of white kid gloves - - -	3	18	0
1700.	12 fine holland shifts - - - -	9	0	0
	18 yards lace for the necks of the 12 shifts at 4*s.* 6*d.* - - - - -	4	1	0
	5½ yards of lace for a head at 21*s.* - -	5	16	6
	Sprigged satin - - - - -	4	0	0
	Half a pound of tea - - - -	0	14	0
	A piece of white flowered satin - -	5	0	0
	9 yards white shagrine - - -	2	5	0
	A gold laced scarf - - - -	8	0	0
	4¾ yards of lemon and silver ribbon - -	1	6	0
	A paper of pachis (patches) - - -	0	1	0
	3 yards of changeable scarlet Spanish for knots -	0	5	6
	A gold Stannkierk - - - -	0	14	0
	A fan painted - - - - -	1	1	6
	36 pairs of white kid gloves - - -	3	12	0
1701.	28⅜ fine gold gallone - - - -	9	13	10
	6¼ yards gold campaigne pt despaigne - -	2	7	0
	A suit of rich sky and gold knots - -	1	13	3
	A suit of cherry and gold knots - -	1	5	6
	20 yards black broad poodesoy - - -	10	0	0
	3¼ yards fine black rash - - -	1	12	6
	Prunes of Tours of St. Katherine - -	0	10	0
	Muscadine grapes - - - -	0	14	0
	25 yards fine Issingham Holland at 23*s.* -	2	16	3
1702.	3¼ yards new French gauze - - -	0	14	0
	Making a 2 double furbelowed scarf - -	0	10	0
	7¼ yards of fine black cloth at 20*s.* - -	7	5	0
	14 yards of camlet for the page's coat - -	2	9	0

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		£	s.	d.
1703.	A feather knot - - - -	1	1	6
	Starching a fine lace hood suit and ruffs -	0	12	0
	7 yards fine broad silver gauze galloon at 24*s.* -	8	8	0
	7 dozen silver cowled olive buttons at 3*s.* 6*d.* -	1	6	0
	Silver fine orriss - - - -	1	7	10
	12 dwts. gold orriss - - - -	0	6	0
	A Russia sable tail tippet - - -	8	12	0
	Making a black and white calico gown and coat	0	15	0
	,, a yellow gown and coat - -	1	0	0
	,, a red and silver gown and coat - -	1	10	0
	Trimming a cloth gown and coat - -	0	15	0
	,, a blue gown and coat - -	0	15	0
	A suit of knots pink and silver - - -	0	15	0
	4 lbs. of coffee - - - - -	0	17	4
	One pair woman's pink silk hose - -	0	13	0
	,, sky silk hose - - -	0	12	0
	,, grey for the page - - -	0	2	0
	16 yards white and sky striped lutes at 5*s.* 3*d.* -	4	4	0
	8 yards gold coloured mantua at 8*s.* - -	3	4	0
	16 yards yellow and white spot silks at 5*s.* 6*d.* -	4	8	0
	28 yards black and white stripe satin at 6*s.* 6*d.*	9	2	0
	Scarlet Sternkierk - - - -	1	1	0
	A pair of stitched stays, black tabby, braid and cordlace - - - - -	2	10	6
	4,000 corking pins 4*s.* 8*d.*, 4,000 middling pins 4*s.* Thread at 3*d.*, 6*d.*, 12*d.*, and 18*d.*			
	For Mr. Coke—			
	18 Ells of freas holland at 8*s.* - -	7	4	0
	12 yards Mechlin lace at 13*s.* - -	7	16	0
	6 shirts making - - - -	0	12	0

(1700.) October 11.—John Wilkins (M.P. for Leicestershire) to the Earl of Chesterfield.

I can't with ease to myself meddle with other people's affairs, but can't forbear giving you this trouble, by reason I know not where Mr. Coke is. Lord Rosse [Roos] for sometime hath been persuaded to come into the House of Commons, and stand for the County of Derby. I would have taken that thing of trouble from Mr. Coke, and sent him to stand in Leicestershire very lately, but he refused it. Now my Lord Devonshire is the man that persuades him, and since Mr. Coke was so obliging to my Lord Rosse before he stood to offer him his interest, my Lord Rutland is not willing Lord Rosse should stand to oppose Mr. Coke. My Lord Devonshire is so warm, as I am told, to say he will spend 10,000*l.* to fling out Mr. Coke, and I believe he told Lord Rutland so. Now I think Mr. Coke should be apprised of this, that he look to himself. My Lord Rosse is not yet resolved, as Doctor Coke tells me to-day, for he heard my Lord Rutland spake it lately, that he would not have his son stand: but how he may be pressed at London is not easy to judge. I shall wait upon your Lordship in a short time, but my house hath been so affected lately, some people are fearful of me. I shall not enter into any particulars for your Lordship is a good judge of this affair. I have more than once begged of my Lord Rutland for my Lord Rosse to stand, and I would desist and give him my poor interest: but now it is too late, for the country is all made. The gentlemen mostly for Mr. Verney and myself, and my Lord Stamford

hath been diligent in making interest for my Lord Sherard and Mr. Ashby.

(1701, March 29.)—Thomas Coke to ———. (Copy.)

I received yours, and find we were beforehand with you in drinking Sir John Harpur's health, which we did on Sunday, which I take to be his birthday; when R. Burdett, two of Mr. Curzons and Mr. Bates and J. Every did me the favour to dine with me. . . . J. W. [John Wilkins] has been two or three times with me to meet him, which I have put off as well as I could, but t'other day, going to Hyde Park on horseback, I met him coming from his home at Kensington. He told me he heard they had a meeting at Lichfield, and designed to set me up, in case of a void election there, and that he had a great deal of interest with Lamb and Hector, and he would make them for me. I told him as to the meeting I had heard nothing of it, nor of anybody's having such a design; and that as for myself I had no intentions to stand anywhere. He seems mighty desirous to regain his past step, and says he has disobliged my Lord Rutland for ever by not making an interest for him. And indeed I believe his case is he has sat down between two stools. Yesterday was a mighty debate about Kidd's patent; and at last they carried it again to be a legal grant, which has set my Lords Somers and Oxford pretty high again. I do design to be with you pretty soon in Derbyshire: but I doubt you will have the news of a war sooner, for by letters from France I have advice that our plenipotentiaries have their answer, which is a flat denial to all their demands, which must end in a war.

(1701, October.) King's Newton.—Robert Hardinge to Thomas Coke.

I cannot go along to-morrow to Sir John Walter, but propose to go to Lichfield on Thursday and will meet you at Sir Henry Every's at 12 o'clock that day, if you appoint it. The address was drawn yesterday at the White Hart in Derby: the engineers, Sir Ph. G. [Philip Gell], Mr. Eyre, Spateman, Mr. Pole, Sir Charles Pye, and Mr. Wilmott. I was told it was modest, but somewhat otherwise was offered. 'Tis ordered to be handed to all in Commission, these three Hundreds, by Charles Adderley. I expected him with it to-day. Praying my most humble service to Sir John, and your answer about Thursday. I am, yours, R. H.

(1701, December.) Endorsed by Mr. Thomas Coke, "Countess of Holles."

. . . . In a place where I was it was said you had not gained your election: but on promise to vote for Mr. Bromley not doing so, you would lose it next time, if the same persons be then living. I can tell you how you shall not fail of being chose at Malden in Essex, where Lord Halifax was first chose, and now Mr. Fhich [Fytche] and Mr. Cumings are the sitting members. Mr. Coe that is a merchant there, and was in custody about Mr. Arbey [Irby] Montague's election, when the Committee set him by, and placed Mr. Fhich in his room, shall be your friend, and Lord Halifax can tell you how powerful he is there, though they are now enemies; and Mr. Richmond, a Captain of Militia, has so great an interest there Mr. Fhich did believe he should have stood there last choice, is now in town, and courted by Lord Rivers, and all his party. I have told him of you, and he is ready to serve you, and would have waited on you at your house, if you had pleased; though he is every day at the Court of Requests. But it is not proper to see him there, for should Fhich see him speak to you,

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he would suspect the matter. If you will see him send me a line by the penny post, for his stay in town will be short. You vexed me so on Sunday, and not getting a coach for my life, I was forced to go so far in the wet and dirt, I have been so ill, I have not been able to write. If you write direct for me at Captain Clarke's in Savage Garden near Great Tower Hill.

1702, October 26. Castleton.—Chr. Staveley to Thomas Coke at the Parliament House.

The occasion of this trouble is about one Robert Towle, a poor prisoner in the County Gaol of Derby for a small debt due to Mr. Charles Potts, and hath been a prisoner for a year and a half, till her Majesty's gracious Act came forth to release small debts, and Towle craving the benefit of the Act was forced to list himself a soldier in Lord Huntington's regiment. At that time he owing me a sum of 20*l.* as bond, for fear of losing my money I caused him to be arrested after he was a listed soldier. Now the poor man is a baker by trade, and if he had his freedom might both pay what he owes me in some few years, and also be a means to relieve his widowed mother and several small fatherless children. Mr. Broodhouse, the Gaoler of Derby, and Towle the prisoner being fallen out, Broodhouse is very severe with him, and keeps him close up like a felon, and sometimes threatens to lay him in the under gaol. My humble request to you is that you would be pleased to intercede with Lord Huntington to send him a discharge for going a soldier, and if there be occasion for another to go in his room, Towle questions not, if he had his liberty, but he could in some small time procure another to officiate for him. I hope you will please to do me this extraordinary favour upon my own concern, and the act of charity on the prisoner's behalf. If you please to give me an answer, direct for me at Castleton in Derbyshire per Sheffield bagg, and it comes to me any Tuesday, written any Saturday.

1703–4, January 13. A paper headed "For the Funeral of the Honble. the Lady Mary Coke, performed by the Company of Upholsters over Exeter Change."

	£	*s.*	*d.*
A fine suit of crape, sheet, pillow and gloves - -	1	15	0
A leaden coffin lined with crape and ruffle - -	5	0	0
An outside double elm coffin covered with fine cloth and set off with silvered work and inscription -	6	0	0
For lining the coffin with seare cloth and preserving the body - - - - - -	2	0	0
A large velvet pall the whole time and journey -	2	0	0
A room for the body hanged in deep mourning with cloth and the Staircase, Hall, and Passage with a border - - - - - -	2	0	0
A Herse and 6 horses 10 days at 35*s.* per day -	17	10	0
3 Mourning Coaches with 6 horses, each the same -	52	10	0
17 Plumes of black feathers for the Herse and horses -	3	0	0
Covering for the Herse and Houseing for the horses of velvet - - - - - -	3	0	0
5 Horsemen in mourning 10 days at 10*s.* each per day - - - - - - -	25	0	0
4 yards cloth for the Pulpit - - - -	2	0	0
37 yards of Baize for the Church - - -	1	17	0

	£	s.	d.
18 flambeaux - - - - -	0	18	0
21 Cloaks for gentlemen, horsemen and coachmen at 18*d.* per day - - - - -	15	15	0
6 Alamode Scarfs for Pall bearers at 15*s.* - -	4	10	0
1 Ditto 3¾ yards long for the Minister - -	0	18	0
× × ×	×	×	
	160	13	3

1703–4, January 17.—A Paper, indorsed by Mr. Coke, "Harold's Bill," for the Funeral of Lady Ann [Mary] Coke.

	£	s.	d.
Two Achievements - - - - -	6	0	0
12 Silk at 5*s.* a piece - - - - -	3	0	0
24 Shields at 3*s.* 6*d.* a piece - - - -	3	12	0
24 large Peneills at 2*s.* a piece - - -	2	8	0
72 small Peneills at 1*s.* 6*d.* a piece - - -	5	8	0
12 shaftroons (chevrons ?) - - - -	0	18	0
4 dozen of buckram Escotcheons at 2*s.* a piece -	4	16	0
24 paper Escotcheons - - - - -	1	4	0
12 buckram more - - - - -	1	4	0
6 silk more - - - - - -	1	10	0
for boards bayes and irons for the two Achievements -	0	10	0
	30	10	0

1703–4, February 7. Hampton Court.—A paper indorsed by Mr. Thomas Coke "My letter to the Speaker."

Sir,—There being a Bill brought in to continue a Committee of Accounts, it being impossible for me to attend that service, if the House should choose me again to be one of that Committee, I hope my friends will have so much indulgence for me as not to name me: and must intreat your favour particularly in this matter, because it would add to my misfortunes, if the House, for whom I have so great duty and respect, should name me to any service, which in the circumstances I am now in I must of necessity decline, being incapable in person to perform it. I hope you will pardon this trouble I am forced to give you: and as soon as I come to town, I will wait upon you to return my thanks for your inquiry after me, and all your favours to your most humble and most obedient servant to command.

[Lady Mary Coke died January 11, 1703–4.]

(1704,). London.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke at Mr. Snape's house at Hampton Court.

Your daughters are both almost rid of their colds, and my Lady Catherine Stanhope is so well as to be abroad again. My Lady Stanhope begins her journey into the country to-morrow: she was here this day, and left the compliment of designing you a visit. There was a play last night at Court, as it was said there would be. It was Solomon Jingle: they say the Queen and Prince was both extremely diverted with it. There was a great deal of company, but no finery, the Court being in mourning. The red furniture is put up secure from dust. I have not yet let them do up the furniture in the drawing room, thinking to beg leave we might sometimes see company there. I take

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this opportunity to add one thing more, which is from my sister Alice and myself, to return you, dear Brother, a thousand thanks for all your kindness to us, especially these last few happy years we have lived together, which we hope you do not think us so unreasonable to expect a continuance of a moment longer than you think fit, but shall be ready to dispose of ourselves as formerly whenever you please: or if we can be of any service to you or yours you may command us in all respects.

(1705.) April 17. St. James's Place.—Thomas Coke to (Marshal de Tallard) at Nottingham.

Monsieur,—Je n'oserois presque pretendre vous envoyer du vin de Champagne et de Bourgogne, sachant combien ils manquent d'être si bons que ceux qu'on en boit en France. Mais ayant trouvé ce que nous estimons en ce pays ici pour être passablement bon, et ne sachant si vous en aviez encore, j'ai hazardé vous en envoyer une cinquantaine de bouteilles de vin de Champagne, et autant de Volni, par les chariots qui sont partis d'ici pour Nottinghamshire au matin, et qui s'y rendront vendredi au soir. Je serai fort aise si vous les trouvez à votre gout. Je ne partirai pas si tôt que je croyois pour la campagne, mais de que j'y arriverai je ne manquerai pas de vous venir rendre mes devoirs, et vous assurer avec quel respect je suis, Monsieur, votre serviteur tres humble et tres obéissant pour vous servir.

(Draft, indorsed by Mr. Coke "to the Marshal Tallard.")

(This paper is also indorsed by him with "For Mr. Boothby at Paulton's Coffee house over against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet Street." "At the Golden Periwig in Little Lincoln's Inn Fields.")

1705, April 21. Nottingham.—Captain John Wroth to Thomas Coke, one of the Tellers of her Majesty's Exchequer, at his house in St. James's Place.

Sir, Marshal Tallard has desired me, being Capt. in waiting on him to remit the enclosed, who am, Sir, your most humble servant.

(1705, April 21. Nottingham.)—Marshal de Tallard to Thomas Coke.

Monsieur,—Je vous renvoye les livres que vous aves eu la bonté de me prester. Et je profite en mesme temps de cette occasion la de vous souhaitter un bon voyage, et de vous assurer que personne du monde ne prendra jamais plus de part à tout ce qui vous interessera, ny ne sera jamais avec tant de verité, Monsieur, votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur, le Mareschal de Tallard. La lettre cy-jointe de M^r. Lewis vous faira voir que toutes les difficultés qui regardent l'entrée de mon vin sont levées. Il n'est plus question que de vos soins, que je suis seur que vous ne me refuseres pas, puisque vous aves eu la bonté de vous en charger.

(1705.) June 22. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place.

We got to Melborn on Saturday noon, after a very good journey [from Wing in Bucks], only a little troubled with heat the last day. Your daughter is very well, and almost out of her senses with the variety of delights this journey has afforded her. I wish I could give you as good an account of Miss Coke. I was very much struck to see so great an alteration in her, for she is extremely fallen away, and her voice so weak and inward, that I think must be from some considerable cause. It seems to me like the stone. My Lady [Carnarvon] imputes it to her having had stale beer all this summer. But they all say Miss is for the most part well, and has a very good stomach. We

happened to come [to Wing] at an unlucky juncture of time, Mrs. Fines being taken ill with a fit of an apoplex, and died on Thursday night, so that my Lady was in such concern that we saw but little of her: and when we did, her thoughts was very much taken up with her trouble, and care about Mrs. Fines. By what little words did drop from my Lady, I believe she would be apt to resent anything, though but for a time, of asking for the remove of the child. My Lady told me she was making a little bed for her to lie in her room by her, and some other things was said which made me not know how to mention anything to my Lady. I gave her maid a strict charge as to her care of her: and she said it was my Lady's orders she should always wait in the outward room whilst Miss was with her. Lady Mary Bertie gave me great assurance that they thought her maid was very careful of her. Miss begins to delight in her French, and comes on with it. My wish is that, if you could, you would spare so much time as to see her yourself as you come down, by which time I believe she will be well again, or else my Lady will be willing something should be tried for her. My Lady has had a very bad fever gone through her family, and buried some of her servants of it, but they are now most of them well again. The morning I came away I ventured so far as to tell Lady Mary Bertie, you had mentioned some little thing, as if you should have been glad to have Miss with you this summer, whilst you was in the country, if my Lady approved of it. Whether I did well in this I cannot tell, but I was in a great strait what to do in it; thinking that if there should be a necessity of your removing her, some warning of this kind might make it easier for you to do it, and prevent my Lady's thinking it was upon any accounts you had had of her from us. We met the ill news of cousin Harry Burdett's death the night we came home. I suppose you will see cousin Walter: pray my service to him.

(1705.) July 30. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke (in St. James's Place).

I am willing to believe the time draws near for our seeing you at Melbourne, your neighbours begin to think it long, my Lord Chesterfield especially. Sir John Walter and his lady have been in this country and dined with my consin Walter Burdett on Tuesday last, and appointed us to give them the meeting. Sir John was almost out of humour not to find you in the country, and was disappointed of seeing Mr. Hardinge that day, and but for good wine and some company he brought with him he would have been much put to it to spend the day. Marshal Talaird (Tallard) is very solicitous to know when you will be here, he said he had writ to you, and engaged both my sister and me upon our word and honour to give him intimation the next day after you were come, and it should not be four days before he would see you at your house. I should first have told you we was at Bretby to wait of Lady Catherine Stanhope the day he dined there. I would willingly have excused the being there, knowing I must make a simple figure, where I could not speak nor understand perfectly, but my Lord did us the favour to send Lady Catherine to ask it, and withal that we must not deny it. There was none but my Lord's own family, except ourselves and Captain Barnes, but the Marshal and the company he brought which was three other French officers, and four English gentlemen. But unexpected, after the bell had rung to dinner, Sir John Walter came in with four more gentlemen, which was not so lucky, but in a quarter of an hour all clouds blew over and nothing appeared that took off from the entertainment, which you will easily believe was very noble

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in all respects. My cousin Jennens are in great affliction for their eldest son's death. Your little one is well. All the dust and noisy work of your gardens is finished, the gravel walks being done. I believe you will be much pleased with them, and these late rains have refreshed the turfs and the trees, that you will find it in great beauty. They are now making the arches to the bason, and coping the wall round it. The little fountains are done with stone, and they have begun to level the ground in the larger grove; but they are at some stop of want of Mr. Cooke, who has not been here but once since you went. Mr. Barnes on Saturday, thinking you had come, sent a horse hither which his man has left with Francis. I suppose my sister Fanshawe may have told you she did not buy the china baskets you bid me write to her for, they being so dear. She sent two large basons and four of a lesser size, but they are not sufficient to fill so large a table as I believe you will sometimes use. Therefore if you think fit, I should be glad if you would add the baskets you mentioned to them, or more of the same sort of dishes. Those my sister has sent are very fine china and suit your plates exactly.

1705, le 9-20 d'octobre. Whitehall. —E. Lewis à M. le Ml. de Tallard.

Monseigneur, J'ai été ce matin aupres les Commissaires de la Douane, pour leur fair sçavoir les intentions de la Reine de faire passer votre vin, de sorte que M. de Santigni n'a que leur dire le nom du vaisseau qui en est chargé, et on trouvera des moyens pour les laisser entrer sans vous donner aucune difficulté. Mais il faut que cela ce passe conformément aux lois, ce qui causera un peu de retardement. J'ai reçu l'honneur de la lettre de votre Grandeur du 17: et j'ai deja renvoyé celles qui y étaient incluses à la poste. Je vous envoye aussi quelques unes à Nottingham. Je suis, Monseigneur, avec un très profond respect, votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur.

1705, November 29.—Duke of Leeds to (Thomas Coke).

This bearer, Mr. Wardour, was related to my wife, and upon that account addressed himself to me to give him what help I can in the getting him restored to the place of one of the Surveyors of the Land Waiters at the Custom House. He informs me that Mr. Smith, who is now Speaker, hath promised him to assist him in that affair, and he has begged of me to recommend him to your favour on the same account. He is a very good gentleman, but hath fallen under some misfortunes, which hath reduced him under the circumstances at this time; so that your assistance will be a charity to him as well as a favour to, Sir, your most humble servant.

(1705 ?.) W. Stratford to Thomas Coke at his house in St. James's Place.

I have sent you Tully and Vasari, both fair and, I hope, very perfect. I must beg you when you see Mr. Ferne to-day to desire him to take the hamper directed to him under his protection. It is a little one, only two dozen of wine in it, and nothing else. It is on board Sanderson's yacht, the *Peregrine*, and was put there without the least notice given to me of it. I must beg, too, another favour that I may remind you of your promise to spend some evening, when you have leisure, in the Cloisters. If you should forget that, the hamper will be of little moment to your most obliged faithful servant.

(1705 ?) F. de Prendcourt à Monsieur Coke à Melbourne. Apres tous les remercimens les plus sensibles de toutes civilités reçues de vous et de Mesdames vos sœurs, il faut que je vous avertisse que Monsieur le

Maréchal [Tallard] vous veut surprendre et venir un de ces matins sans vous avertir: car il s'en fait un plaisir. Il est venu içi [Clifton ?] ce matin avec M. de Lionne et autres Messieurs: mais il n'est pas demeuré au diner.

(1705 ?) Clifton.—F. de Prendcourt à Monsieur Coke à Melbourne. You are so good that I hope you'll be so kind as to keep it secret that M. Tallard only and I do come to-morrow morning to surprise you at dinner. He prayed me not to tell you of it, but I believe a traitor of this nature is not to be hanged, so long as he does some service to his friends. A pen made for to compose trios for the flute is in truth not fit for to write letters.

(1706.) October 19. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke.

I could not have been so long silent to my dear Brother but for the hopes we have had of seeing you in Derbyshire, and am sorry your business would not permit you to come further than Duston. I received a letter last post from my Lady Carnarvon, with an account of your daughter which I own gives me a great concern, for my Lady tells me she has found the reason of her looking so ill to be occasioned by Miss Katie Bertie and her both eating paper, and also acorns: which I much fear may occasion her ill health some time hence; as well as the eating green apples last year did, with the same little ringleader to mischief. My Lady says Miss Coke is pretty well: but by her writing word of Miss's looking pale before I came out of town, when she imputed it to the vexation of her learning French, and since, as I have writ you word, has continued to say she looks very pale, though she was very well, makes me fear this ill custom has been of long standing. It has come into my thoughts that if you had leisure sufficient you might make Wing in your way as you returned from Duston, which if it has been so lucky to happen you will have seen the child and can judge much better than by this distant relation, what you think necessary to be done for her. My Lady Carnarvon has been so very obliging as in all her letters to press our coming to Wing this year again, but we having been there last year, I think it cannot be necessary, but be rather more proper not to give my Lady the trouble again this year. I shall only wait for your directions in this, and how you like best we should dispose of ourselves. I thank God Miss Betty is extremely well; and we have no complaint, but the want of a new coat, this being both too little and too short. I sent yesterday to Bretby: I doubt my Lord is in a very ill state of health in the main; for if he does not eat but keeps low in his diet, he is very subject to be sick, and when he does venture to eat higher, then his leg inflames which makes him very desirous to get to town. Mr. Clarke and my Lady are still at Bretby. Mr. Hardinge holds out better than could be expected. Since I do not see you here, I must beg the favour that Mr. Fisher may set my money even before it be long, which comes to fifty odd pounds. Mr. Fisher told me he could help me to it in a little time, but I told him I would not receive any till I had your orders. Cooke, the Gardener, is now here, and wishes much for your orders in several things, that would give finishing strokes to the garden. I understood by Mr. Harding that John Sergent stood rebuked by you for his negligence, which I was glad to hear, for with him looking to is absolutely necessary. Could your business permit you to be more amongst them, you would find the advantage of it. We understand you and Sister Fanshawe are separated at present, but we hope by her letter last post her boy will do well.

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1706. December 4.—Mr. Secretary Harley to the Rt. Honble. Vice-Chamberlain (Thomas Coke).

Sir,—Her Majestie hath commanded me to signifie her pleasure that you attend to-morrow evening at six a clock in the Lodgings at Kensington. I am, Sir, your most faithful and most humble servant,

Ro. Harley.

1706. December 10. — J. Statham to the Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household, in St. James's Place.

Let me presume to congratulate you on your late promotion: and at the same time entreat your regard of your affair of the Lott and Cope, which can never be put on so good a foot as at present. It now lies before the Auditor, who is my friend, and stays making his report till he has had the honour of discoursing you, and will then do it to your satisfaction. Lord Clifford's title he will prove bad: and for that reason they perpetually labour the Auditor. 'Tis a man of thought, and would value one half hour's conversation with you, before the presents you send him. Be pleased to order an hour at Thwaite's, the Fountain, in the Strand some time to-morrow, and I'll bring him thither, and the report shall be to your mind I doubt not.

1706–7. February 5 (N.S.). Antwerp. — Henry Cartwright to (Thomas Coke).

I have the honour of yours in relation to the lace for the Countess of Kent. There was no opportunity from hence or Ghent, therefore I sent it to a particular friend in Rotterdam, who could not meet with a fit person to intrust it with. I advised him to add weight to it, that it might appear papers, and direct it for the Rt. Honble. Robert Harley, Esq., Secretary of State, which he has done, and taken a receipt for it from the Postmaster: so that I hope you have got it, as also the two heads you ordered me to buy. I sent them by Mr. Willis, a friend of Mr. Brydges. If you have any further commands in this country, I assure you nobody shall act with more zeal and sincerity for your service than, Sir, your most humble and most obedient servant.

(1707.) September 13. Melborne.—Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke in St. James's Place.

My sister Alice is well recovered. Yesterday we went with Mrs. Hardinges to wait of my Lady Harpur, who is still very full of complaints, but she looks well and goes out every day to take the air. Marshal Tallaird (Tallard) sent us a compliment, and also to inquire when we had heard how you did, and whether you come into the country this year. But since we hope to see you soon it will be then time enough to return it as you think fit. My Lord Chesterfield has been this ten days at Buxton Wells, with my Lord Stanhope, and by his own advice to make trial of it himself. By Mr. Hardinge's directions they have just now finished the mending the foundation of the wall, by which the gardens was overflowed last winter; for one day examining Mr. Moore how it was, we found it was not the Bason that overflowed but the water coming through the foundation of the wall a little above where the bench stands. It flowed [over] all that low ground, and ran down over the slope into the great Bason: so that Mr. Hardinge thought there would be a necessity of its being mended before the floods came again, lest the wall itself should fail. I have employed Gardiner's idle time in catching some pikes to put into the great Bason, for I thought it was great pity to have year after year pass without any stock in it. What few we left last year in it seemed to have improved very well. And I ventured to set up some old grates that lay by at the

arch of the melon ground, for we found that they would sometimes, upon the Bason's being full, get over the grate of the Bason and so go down the brook. Miss is very bonny and well, and gives you her duty.

1708. May 24. Mr. W. Stocker's account.	£	s.	d
Chocolate, 20 lbs., at 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb.	3	10	0
2 pounds of Bohea tea, at 43*s.* per lb.	4	6	0
2 pounds of green tea at 20*s.* per lb.	2	0	0
Four dozen and four lemons and oranges	0	11	3
Twelve loaves of double refined sugar, 66 lbs., at 12*d.* per lb.	3	6	6
Twelve loaves of single ditto 62 lbs., at 8*d.* per lb.	2	1	8
To packing boxes and barrels	0	5	3
	16	0	8
John Anderson for wines	143	0	0
Madam Lawrence 21 10 0			
Do. 11 5 0			
Do. 7 0 0			
Do. 30 0 0			
	69	15	0
Francis Landey (Cook)	54	0	0
John Winkleure (Valet)	59	0	0

1708. November 28. Melborne. — Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

My Lady Harpur dined here with Mrs. Wortley yesterday, and made use of the lanthorn home. My Lady has put us into the fashion of riding hoods, which she had from my Lady Kent, and is the most comfortable garment for Derbyshire that can be.

1709. April 12. Melborne.—Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

I have appointed Monday next to take down the centre of your Library, and hang the windows and doors. Green wants orders for the laying of the floor: he has seen the stone which was got in the garden, and thinks it very good for the purpose.

1709. November 21. Melborne. — Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke at his Lodgings at the Palace of St. James.

Your library has been finished some time, but is not dry yet. I believe it will not be fit to be ventured with your writings till summer, when I hope you will come to place them yourself. I believe you will like the room in all respects, but the cost.

1710. May 8. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke).

I have taken care of the payment of Godfrey's bill, and will put it to Misses' last year's account. Locker says the reason of the ale's lying by the way was one of the vessels leaking, but that he had a cooper to mend it. He is very earnest to be excused for this failure, and promises great care for the future. About the rates, he says for seven shillings the hundred winter and summer he will serve you with particular care. I take him to be much the best carrier upon our roads, and he will into this rate fetch and carry both from and to your house in town and country; which Edwards (Ashby de la Zouch) has often refused me, and makes it very chargeable, especially in winter when the coal roads are so bad your ox team can't go. I have chosen rather to hire than

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hazard your horses. The young horse is preparing to be turned out. Roger Tailor writ me word his brother John had a conveniency for him to run by himself, and he would take the same care of him as last year. Many saying the horse should go by himself, I was willing to be of the sure side; for he is so fine as has taught me to be fond of a horse; otherwise I am glad when your stable is empty, being forced to take your groom's word for what I do not understand myself. He made your grey horse's cold a great secret to me, and is still very positive it is not the glanders; but all else that see him make little doubt of it. He is this day gone with him to Ashbourn fair. The Scot can pace and gallop pretty well, but upon a trot is downright lame. George is willing to hope he'll do again. I have paid all here according to your directions, but Mr. Cook whom I have not enough to clear. I will take care as you direct concerning the payment of the workmen. Mr. Fisher has often made a doubt that Cook did not pay, which has given me occasion to enquire for some time, and I cannot find there is the least occasion to complain in it. Your garden is kept in seeming good order, and no want in the kitchen garden. But you will find a very great change in the beauty of your greens in the Parterre by last year and this also. About six weeks ago they began to promise recovery in a great measure; but the same cold winds that have taken away the fruit have strangely struck the Phyllereas that was left alive: and the laurels seem some of them to be quite killed. The yews and the round hollies are well, but the spire hollies, some of them, look but ill: whether this has come from any neglect to them, I cannot judge. I was on Saturday last to wait of Lady Catherine Clarke [at Chilcote], who is so kind to be desirous that myself and your daughters would come to stay with her. They are so handsomely equipped that, if you don't disapprove, I will go with them, believing it will not be very long before you will send for your servants and horses. In my way home I called of cousin John Burdett, who is the only one that has seemed desirous you should know the proceedings of affairs here in relation to elections. Though I find he is not let into the secret, he could assure me that there was something on foot, and I believe it carried on with some earnestness: but who is the person, he would not tell. As to Mr. Curzon, he said he knew he had often been solicited to separate from you, and had declined it: but he found he was at present much disobliged by having a great many times waited of you, and never could get to see you, nor never had heard you had been to him, nor had he heard from you since his being in the country. And my cousin concluded with seeming to think there would be an absolute necessity that you should either come down amongst them yourself, or hold a greater correspondence with your friends, which he said he found several uneasy about. On Saturday last there was a general meeting of gentlemen at Kedleston, especially from Sudbury and that side. When Mr. John Hardinge came last from the Sessions he intimated that they had been much at election by discourse at a distance, and that in general he found them ready to conclude that they should not see you till next year. Not in this, but every day gives instance of the want of a friend equal in kindness and capacity to serve you with him that is gone [Robert Hardinge]: by whom your interest always was endeavoured with the same earnestness and pleasure as if it had been his own, and who used to say that, though upon these public occasions a late, after your having been sometime absent from them, his defending you was always upon the point of his sword, yet it was as wonderful to see how your presence, when you came, could engage; as also that he was sure you had the addition of having done more particular kindnesses for your

countrymen then all the members put together for many, many years. John Berisford and Edward Hollingworth came to me this morning, the former to desire to part with what land he holds of you to the other, except four acres in a field, and his grass ground. I desired Mr. Fisher to send me your answer to it.

[Note by the Vice-Chamberlain. "Time enough when I come down."]

1710, May 24. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to [Vice-Chamberlain Coke].

I think it not improper to acquaint you that Swarson [Swarkeston] Club is revived and to-morrow sevennight the day appointed to begin, because there will be just time to write to any of your friends by the next post before the meeting, if you think proper. My cousin John Burdett called of me this morning in his way to Twyford, where Mr. Curzon and several are to dine this day. He still seems to think no particular person pitched of: but he gave me to understand the general disgust the proceedings in Dr. Sacheverel's business had given, and which was his own opinion, though he shall never do anything contrary to your interest, underhand, or without first giving his reasons for it to yourself. 'Tis visible every one is a politician sufficient to see into the depth of the State, and no allowances made in what they disapprove, especially in your absence. I am silent to all else, who am your faithful sister.

1710. July 8. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

My Lord Ferrers makes no small pains to be a very popular person. Six hogsheads of wine are sent to Chartley to entertain the Staffordshire gentlemen, who, 'tis said, he expects to come to make him their thankful acknowledgments for his great services to the Doctor [Sacheverel], who also himself, 'tis said, will be there. But they often say he comes, where he never has: though he was at Lichfield, and very foolish proceedings there was with him, which, 'tis said, was much against his will, and gave him much uneasiness.

1710–1. January 17. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Hon. the Vice-Chamberlain at his Lodgings at the Palace at St. James, London.

The horse rider has now had Rattle in hand this ten days, with very good success: he is as quiet as is possible, and I can't say all the man says in his commendation. He has brought a young horse with him of Marshal Tallard's [Tallard], which they tell me is usual for them to do: but I shall not dare to let him take your's to another body's stable, without your leave. Your filly grows extremely since it has been in the house.

1710–1. February 7. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice-Chamberlain of H. M.'s Household, at lodgings at St. James, London.

We are at this time covered with the deepest snow we have had yet, but not the coldest, which gives me hope winter will end with it. My cousin Walter Burdett's further opinion and desire as to your young horse is, in case you continue him in the country, you would oblige him with the care of him. His servant he thinks proper, as also has leisure to do it. He seems not to think George sufficient to be entrusted with him. The horse rider has been gone a week, and hitherto the horse is very quiet: but my cousin Burdett believes you will think it better worth your while to pay the forfeit than pay the

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keeping for the agreed match with your horse. 'Tis his opinion the horse will not prove strong enough to carry yourself: and therefore, as the horse is so very fine, and in so good order, that you would have him up this month, and let him appear in Hyde Park, and he thinks you need not question but be sure of the certainty of a great price for him; which he would wish you to accept. The horse rider is as confident of his strength to carry you. The Ashby carrier, having ale from Burton for you, left the vessel from hence till this week, when it will come up, and also a cage wherein is two brace of partridges, five snipe, a cock, five teal, and a pair of ducks.

1710–1. February 14. Ash Wednesday. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice-Chamberlain of H. M.'s Household, at his lodgings at St. James, London.

I hope Mr. Fisher will come down and settle everything against Lady day. I sent up by Edwards, the Ashby carrier, on Monday last, the last of the partridges, and a hare, and some wild fowl and a flitch of bacon, being a dear commodity in London, which has made me dry it all this year, instead of pickling; so that there will be more if you like it, and six hams are drying, but not yet ready to send. A malt man that was used in the summer for the Election matter, happening to bring in his bill, I would not omit the paying it, to prevent any further expectation, and have left myself as bare as possible for the present. I am much concerned that your leg still confines you. The weather is extremely cold. Your gardener tells me he thinks your greens do not yet receive any damage by the weather, and I hope it will be a means of fruit.

1710–1. March 12. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke).

I will take care Mr. Fisher performs your orders to Mr. Bakewell, who, I understand, is already prepared to remove to Derby. As to Mr. Troughton's [Vicar of Melbourne] expectations in being considered for the Gardens, he has long to others, though not to me, mentioned it; and the keeping his horses for so many years in the grounds and other civilities he always took as his due, and not as civility, upon the account of these small tithes. And 'tis my opinion that whatever present kindness you show him, which in some respects he deserves well from you, yet I fear it will with other former kindness be forgot, if this particular be not settled for a certainty hereafter. I thought to propose to you that I might ask him to make his own valuation of his demands for a part of the Gardens, and the grass yards, and then you might settle it. If you would shew any particular civility over and above at this time, I cannot guess anything that would be more acceptable than good tobacco; and I fancy a dozen pounds of it would be years keeping to him. I put the inclosed writing into the scrutore, and it reminds me to tell you that the Evidence Room has been kept with fires all winter, and appears to keep your writings very dry. Your charity is very great as to Betty Ellison's bill. Radford's account of the floodgate shall be settled. As to the bricks in the Common, it happening we had no ploughing, and the team being idle for the last month, I ventured to have them fetch home bricks, having experienced that nothing is safe in this place. I depended you will like to have them laid safest, which I know even in your own yards could not be but under lock and key, and therefore they are set in the inner backyard, so ranged as to be least in sight of anywhere. But there is two stacks of bricks yet upon the Common, which to fetch Mr. Fisher says would make the oxen not in fit

case for Easter Fair: so he proposes the loaming the sides and covering the tops with turf to remain where they do. I desire to hear again from you as to Green proceeding in getting the stone. As to Mrs. Lineston, I think she is one you may truly depend upon for a faithful good servant, and I believe it would be hard to find one that you and my sister can entrust with more safety and credit here in your absence. She would now undertake at six pounds a year wages and four shillings a week board wages: and the hiring one to clean the house and necessary things, as mops, soaps, sand, brooms, &c. she would take the whole upon herself at twenty pounds a year, Mr. Fisher laying in what quantity of coal you may direct. I think it seems a great deal, but I cannot see how she can go lower. As to Mr. Moore [gardener] his behaviour in the main hitherto has been very much to be approved in all respects; and he has been so much left to himself that it gives great reason to believe he will do the same when your servant. As to what I mentioned in my last to you about my nieces' maid I hope you will believe I am far from pretending to judge better than you and my sister can for them, or that I shall not be easy, and truly hope what you shall determine will prove the best. There has happened a most unaccountable dispute between Mr. Fisher and Joseph Cantrill about three acres and a half of land, which adjoins to the Holme Close of John Martin's. I thought the entering into articles would have prevented any dispute to follow, and which are clear against Cantrill: besides that their plowing and sowing the land contrary to their articles was an insolence unpardonable. On the other side there was some circumstances which appeared not fair upon Cantrill. So to come to the truth I saw Ragg, Cantrill, Martin and Mr. Fisher face to face. The two first submitted and begged pardon as to the sowing, and Martin on the other side promised not to insist upon having it. All the three tenants agreed in their desire that I would lay all the circumstances before you, to be decided as you should judge fit.

(1710–1. March 21.) (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. Thomas Coke, Vice-Chamberlain of H.M's. Household, at his lodgings in St. James's Palace, London.

Cousin Walter Burdett coming in, I advised with him as to the sending your horse, who was altogether for George riding him up, and leading him in his hand, as he should see convenient. He set out this morning early towards Leicester, the Forest way, with one with him so far to open the gates, the Loughborough road being extremely bad. George made many difficulties in venturing him, it being so dirty, but my cousin thought he was in good order for it, and no reasonable objection. I have given George the strictest charge of care I could, and hope he will bring him safe.

1711. April 8. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

Mr. Bakewell has finished your work of the Arbour, and has not brought in any account of it, but says, when you have seen it, he will refer himself to you. He has got a shop fitting up at Derby. He is so miserably poor that I believe he cannot remove till he has some money. So far as 5*l.* I have promised to let him have, to leave him without excuse in going. He has just sent him a very noble piece of work for my Lord Gore [Gower] and is further engaged in work for my Lord Chesterfield; and my Lord Ferrers has lately sent to him also. So I have been unwilling to press his going, to expose him too much, since his livelihood depends upon it.

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1711. April 11. Melbourne.—Elizabeth Coke to Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

I think to make use of John Laffenhouse to come up, for the ways being so bad, I shall not dare to venture without him, as well as my own footman. My Lord Ferrers' family will be down on Friday next with a hired coach and two sets of hired horses, so that if you please to let Mr. Brown agree with that coach to bring us up, I believe it will be considerably saved in the expense.

1711. April 21. (Melbourne.)—Elizabeth Coke to the Rt. Honble. the Vice-Chamberlain at his lodgings at the Palace at St. James, London.

I hope the disappointment of the coach has proved lucky, we having had much unexpected great rains that 'tis now mighty floods. You have found by my last letter that I have endeavoured to have been secure of the stage, in case the other failed, but could not. I believe it will be much the more certain if you will please to secure in town that either the Leicester coach, or some other, send down one for us, that we may be certain (please God) not to be delayed longer than the next week. Your coach here cannot perform the journey; and one of the leather coaches is the best of their sort, I think: for the common stages have none, I believe, tolerable of the others, and we may hope for warm weather. We will prepare to fence against cold, should it continue. Your servants were discharged against Monday, and I think to let them go accordingly; and since Mrs. Lineston stays here, and we shall live so much of our time with my sister Hardinge, we shall make shift without all, but one. I desired Mr. Fisher to let you know as to the Burton ale: and I will endeavour to take care to have it settled with Mr. Troughton.

1712. October 7. Whitehall.—George Gordon to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke)

In obedience to your commands I herewith send you a list of the Rank of the Regiments so far as the General Officers have yet settled them, but the same has been returned to them again by Sir William Wyndham to make it more complete, which now lies before them to finish. My Lord Treasurer is recovering, having been ill the last week, and did not go to Windsor on Saturday as usually he does. I saw Major-General Hill this week: he goes into the country till he be recovered.

1712–3. February 21. Morvall.—John Buller to the Rt. Hble. Vice-Chamberlain Coke.

I received yours of the 12th instant, but never had the honour of any letter from you before now. I perceive by yours, not knowing my nephew's name or place so well, your acquaintance was not so great with him: though from my respects to my nephew's memory, and understanding he had a service for you, I promoted your interest to the utmost. And as I possibly did you some service, I gave you an account of your election. I find our friends are sensible of the same omission, and therefore for rendering my interest more successful, I guess their desire is to have a gentleman of our own country. You are pleased to mention in yours my Lord Lansdowne. I pray you give him my humble service; and if I am the plainer, I hope you will not think me the less friendly.

1718. August 4. Kensington.—Lochmann to Mr. Vice-Chamberlain Coke. COKE MSS.

Je me donne l'honneur vous adviser par celle cy que Sa Majesté est contente que vous fassiez faire le tableau des oiseaux selon la mesure de l'autre, qui se trouve sur l'escalier derobé à Kensington.

"Orders for the Chapel Royal in King James the 2nd time."

None shall come into our Closet under the degree of Peers, or their wives, and Privy Councillors. On the right hand our Closet shall sit the Peers' wives who want room in our Closet, Maids of Honour, and Dressers, to our Dearest Consort. On the left hand our Closet shall sit Peers who want room in our Closet. In the absence of our Chamberlain and Vice Chamberlain a Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber may come into our Closet and turn the Chair, and remain there. The Gentleman Usher Daily Waiter shall attend with the Sword without the door of the Closet Chamber, and place two Yeomen of the Guard to keep the door and see good order kept in the Chapel Chamber, and shall cause a Gentleman Usher Quarter Waiter to keep the door next the Gallery with two Yeomen of the Guard to hinder unnecessary crowding the Room. And to prevent any indecency or irreverence that might be committed to the dishonour of Religion and the Government of Our Household by so great . . . . . persons as daily assemble in our Closet Chamber we hereby strictly command that none presume to walk or talk aloud there in time of Divine Service or Sermon upon pain of Our Displeasure. And the Gentleman Ushers Daily Waiters are required to admonish such as shall presume to break this Our Order and to complain to Our Chamberlain or Vice Chamberlain that we may punish the same.

By His Majesty's Command
MULGRAVE.

The places and seats in His Majesty's Chapel Royal are disposed of by His Majesty in His Orders signed by his Royal Hand and if any inferior place not therein named be to be disposed of it is to be disposed of by the Lord Chamberlain's order and no otherwise.

"Orders for the Chapel in King William's time."

That in Our going and coming from Our Chapel all persons keep their ranks orderly. That no person come into the Chapel at any other than the West ordinary door, where some of our Guard shall stand. That none presume to come into the seat of the Dean of the Chapel, whether present or absent. All the stalls beyond the Dean's seat shall be kept for the Ladies of the Bedchamber to Our dearest Consort the Queen, Wives of the Great Officers of the Household, Wives of Privy Councillors, the Wives and Daughters of the Nobility. On the other side the Chapel none to come into the stalls under the degree of a Baron, unless he be a Privy Councillor, or Captain of Our Pensioners, or Captain of Our Guard attending Our Person. No Lords or others allowed to sit within the stalls shall go beforehand into the Chapel but wait upon Us till We be set in Our Chair in the Closet and then go down in order. From the first door forwards to the end of the seat on the Dean's side none shall presume to come but the Gentlemen of Our Privy Chamber that are in waiting Chaplains of the Month Clerk of the Council Clerk of the Signet and Clerk of the Privy Seal attending, the Physician that waits, Gentlemen Ushers, Cupbearers, Carvers and Sewers. Grooms of Our Bedchamber to sit behind the Dean of Our Chapel and the Pages of Our Bedchamber behind them. The Gentlemen Pensioners to sit behind the Lords' seat behind the

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Archbishop of Canterbury, the Officers of Our Greencloth below the Chaplain's seat. No Chaplain of Our Own in Ordinary or other (those of the Month only excepted) nor the Chaplains of any Nobleman or other Divine shall presume to go within any of the said stalls. No Secretary or other Gentleman belonging to any Nobleman, nor any Knight or Gentleman coming to Court, if they come into Chapel, shall presume to come into the said stalls. The Officers of Our Wardrobe to sit in the seat at the end of the stall of Our Privy Council. All and every of these Orders to stand in force in all and every of Our Chapels, wheresoever we come to Service or Sermon in Chapel.

DORSETT.

(No date.) Longford.—Sir Edward Coke to Thomas Coke.

I am much indebted to you for the favour of your frequent letters: as also upon the account of having got the covers franked in which Fox sends me the Votes. Your account is the best, and your reasonings the justest that I have received (though I have read many pamphlets) of the present juncture of affairs. The two best in my opinion are "The Duke of Anjou's Succession Considered," and "An Essay upon ——." The former is writ floridly and smells more of the gown than the camp: the other's style is more masculine, his reasonings juster and more faithful, and discovers qualifications which render him more worthy of being a Minister of State than the first. The spirit with which the Essay is writ shows the author to have lived in foreign courts, and to have served in armies. Though I think none of them have measured the force and strength of the Confederates and France fairly. . . . From the consideration of the Dutch present circumstances as they now stand with France, my judgment is that they cannot avoid being necessitated to come to a peace, though the forming of this League (which the unanimous Resolution of the Commons gave birth to) may have the consequence of France granting them better terms, and giving them a temptation to drop us: for so we shall be if the security of our Straits trade be not as much provided for: for that is (if I may so call it) our Flanders and our Barriers, for without the trades that depend from and upon the Mediterranean, England will become poor, defenceless at sea, and exposed a prey to the next invader. . . . The balance is no longer preserved than the English and Dutch keep the dominion of the seas, which can't be done without Flanders be independent of France, and some expedient be found to secure to us all the trade we have hitherto had from the West India, Straits and Levant: if we lose them they naturally fall into the hands of the French. . . . Let the Dutch consider that we can't lose any of our trade, but it will fall into the hands of a more formidable enemy to them, that will one day dispute the conquest of their country. . . . Nothing but age, the poverty of the extensive Spanish monarchy and the Italian interest could be of weight sufficient to make the King of France to quit all his glorious hopes and advantages of ascending to the universal monarchy, and sacrifice them to a general peace, which I believe we shall have. I meet your friends this week, when we shall drink your health.

(No date.) Longford.—Sir Edward Coke to [Thomas Coke].

I am extremely obliged to you on this account of the Sheriffs. Mr. Degge and Mr. Pierrepoint will probably be excused by the mediation of my Lord Devonshire and my Lord Kingston, and I don't know but the other may get off too, and if so then a pocket sheriff may put me in danger. Please to have a reserve in case of need, and a friend to screen

me. I have my particular thanks to make to you for your thoughts so freely given upon our affairs. The want of succeeding in Spain is that our affairs there were not conducted with that steady firm and consummated wisdom and experience, nor their counsels there so justly concerted as both the two armies in Flanders and Italy under the commands of Duke Marlborough and Prince Eugene. I doubt the King of Sweden will prove a viper and sting the allies, though nourished in King William's bosom.

(No year.) May 10. [Ashborne ?]—Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke, at Melborne.

In a short time after I had the honour to see you in London I was taken ill of an ague, which obliged me to keep my bed some time. The intermitting fever hung on me so long, that I could not possibly stir out till last Monday. I find the country here has been considerably drained of men by several officers, which will oblige me to beg all the interest I can. I have made some progress since I came down, and those I have got are extraordinary good men. I hope you will imagine that nothing but my illness could have hindered me from waiting on you before you left London, or visiting you now. I shall not fail to wait on you on Thursday with my bottle of Jesuits bark at my back.

(No date.) Postmark June 22. [Ashborne ?]—Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I thought myself obliged to let you know the success I have had: for in four weeks and three days that I have been in the country, I have completed my company, except eight men; 40 of which are volunteers, and all raised within seven miles of Ashborne. I shall make it my business to acquit myself well of the honour you have done me in my post, and ever own myself to be your most obliged humble servant.

(No year.) November 21. Duncannon Fort.—Capt. Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I gave you the trouble of a letter by my Lord Southwell's footman soon after my landing in Ireland. I had the good fortune to show a very good company to my Lord Cutts, and have since had as good luck in keeping them. All the companies in the Regiment, except my own and Captain Adams, so very thin upon landing that the Captains themselves were sent back to recruit them, and but one is yet arrived with any men, so the duty has been hard upon Capt. Adams and myself. I have commanded in this Fort near two months, but expect to be relieved before Christmas, and I believe I shall see England very soon after. It's you wholly I must thank for having it in my power to give this account.

(No year.) January 7. Waterford.—Capt. Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke, in St. James's Place in London.

I thought I should have seen England this Christmas and returned thanks for the honour you did me of a letter to the Fort: but there being but two Captains besides myself with the Regiment, and one of them detached with a draught to Kingsaile for Catalonia, I am obliged to stay here, though I am not out of hopes I may get leave to wait of the Colonel who talks of being at London in a short time. I am infinitely obliged to you for the expressions of your favour in the latter part of your letter. . . . We have just now a talk of another Captain being sent to Kingsaile; if so it is your humble servant.

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(No year.) January 19. Waterford.—Capt. Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke, at his house in St. James's Place, London.

I had not troubled you so soon again, but I am under some apprehensions of seeing Catalonia before England ; for our Lieut. Colonel tells us that we must suddenly expect to have a draft of 300 men out of our Regiment to recruit some Battalions in Catalonia, and that three or four Captains are to see the men landed in that Province. We have four Captains in England that never were with the Regiment, and the duty of this place and of Duncannon Fort has been wholly done by three of us; and on Tuesday next I relieve again Captain Adams at the Fort, and shall stay there two months, if I am not taken off of that duty to go with the detachment to Spain, for I fear Colonel Wynne will send one of his nephews in my room. I should be infinitely well satisfied to go with the whole Regiment to Catalonia; but to go a thousand miles to come back again out of my duty would a little trouble me. I now beg the favour of you to procure me leave of the Duke to see England. . . . I have some particular business in Derbyshire which makes me more urging.

(No year.) July 3. Ashborne.—Captain Henry Boothby to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place, London.

Colonel Wynne has sent me over hither to dispose of the recruiting money to the several officers, as they shall want it. We drafted 300 private men out of our regiment for Spain : and we are to receive levy money for them out of the English Treasury, which is to be placed in my hands. You will very much oblige me in letting your servant send me word when the money is issued out, that I may acquaint the Colonel with it, as he has ordered.

(No date.) Burton.—William Brown to Thomas Coke in St. James's Place. [Endorsed by Mr. Coke "Concerning Windham's Cornet."]

I received your letter this morning from brother Allsopp, and give you a million of hearty thanks. Not expecting anything this campaign, I had taken thoughts another way, to try my fortune under Venus, and accordingly about a fortnight ago was (by some friends) proposed to a lady of a very good fortune : but how I shall speed (farther than a favourable interview already) I can't tell : but upon this account will hasten to know my fate. . . . 'Tis yet a secret, and therefore desire you'll take no notice of it at present to our Derbyshire friends. Mr. Greasley and Mr. Inge are friends in this affair, and I have advised with them this morning.

(No date.)—Joseph Harris to the Honble. Thomas Coke, of Derby, at his House in St. James's Place.

Some time since I presented to your Honour a book which I writ on my Lord Duke of Marlborough ; and last summer I presented another book to you, called Luzzara, being an Encomium on Prince Eugene of Savoy. As yet I have never had any return for either of those presents to your Honour, wherefore now, by reason I am very ill and lame in rheumatism, I humbly make bold to address myself to your Honour, either for small charity, or for the return of the books, that I may present them to some other persons of quality. I have nothing but what I get by writing and translating out of Latin Greek and Spanish, to maintain and provide for my wife and four children.

(No date.)—Sir James Hayes to [Thomas Coke].

The universal character of your generous and Christian temper makes me presume to give you this trouble, most humbly to implore your

assistance at this juncture of extremity, by this gentleman the bearer who has my recommendations from the Duke of Ormond and other persons of quality, relating to my present unfortunate condition, which I doubt not will move you to confer upon me your charitable answer to relieve the languishing condition of your most obliged and obedient humble servant.

(No date.)—Andrew Hopegood to Thomas Coke at St. James's Place.

I have received from Mr. Balle the note of the prices of his statues. He is in treaty for the first three. I think the Vulcan is one you had thoughts to buy. He tells me these are the prices set down to the late King:—

	£
Autumn with two Satyrs at his feet to the life	120
Ceres or Venus de Medicis to the life	120
Vulcan to the life	80
Apollo larger than the life	90
A Satyr to the life	60
An old Philosopher	30
A Pan	40
Freight and charges	45

(No date.) From on board the *Monk*.—John Littill to Thomas Coke, Member of Parliament, St. James's Place.

I think it to be my duty for to let your worship understand that, blessed be God, I am safely arrived to the Buoy in Nore in the *Speedwell* and I was pressed there for her Majesty's Ship the *Monk* [Monck] Capt. James Miles Commander, now riding at an anchor in the Nore. Our Lieutenant's name is Stanhope, and I would desire your worship for to be so kind as to write a letter of commendation to the Captain or Lieutenant, for indeed it would do me a great kindness, for then I should have time to learn my book, and in a short time, by the grace of God, learn the art of navigation: for as I am now I shall never learn nothing.

(No year.) August 18. Brompton Park.—George London to Thomas Coke at Hampton Court.

Being in company with the Earl of Northampton and my Lord Bishop of London I was informed that they design a journey for Derbyshire this next week: also I heard them say that they design to lodge three nights at your house of Melbourne. From this I did conclude that your Honour was in that country, but since I came to town I was informed that you are at present at Hampton Court, and that you design to go towards Derbyshire next week. I desire your Honour to signify to me by this bearer at what time you will be at Melbourne. The Lords are at present at Castle Ashby, to which place I shall go next Monday, and on the Thursday following we set out for those parts. It is a journey to see gardens and plantations, as my Lord Chesterfield's, Lord Ferrers', Duke of Devonshire's &c.

(No date.) London.—E. Repington to Thomas Coke at his house in Clarendon Court near St. James's Place.

You was pleased to promise me the verses upon the Toasts, which I desire you would order your servant to transcribe. I should not have given you this trouble, but that my Lord Stanhope and Mr. Inge will expect I should bring down something that's new for their entertainment.

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(No year.) August 7.—Catherine Lady Harpur to the Honble. Mr. Coke at his Lodging at St. James's House, London.

I have just been solaceing myself with the tea you sent, which is very good and makes amends for its being dear: and the picture much better than I could express. All this deserves a great many thanks. . . . . Lord Chesterfield much obliged all Derby by being at the Assembly, and being very generous in relieving the poor prisoners. . . . . I am in great distress to make good a promise I made Lady B. Glenorchy of one of Colmar's fans. If you would be so good to use your interest to get me one 'twould be a great favour. It may be a guinea fan.

(No year.) October 4.—Catherine Lady Harpur to the Honble. Mr. Coke at his Lodging at St. James's House.

I give you a thousand thanks for getting me the fan, and beg it may be sent to my house in town. I am sorry you still continue so ill with the gout. If my wishes were effectual you would soon find yourself much at ease. You once named having a picture of mine copied by the Duke of R. I hope upon my desire you will alter your mind. Indeed 'tis not worth having, and be assured 'tis not want of true respect makes me desire this, but some trivial reasons I have. I have a picture I design to get Mr. Jarvis (?) man to mend; I will pay him altogether.

(No date.)—Benjamin Sutton to Thomas Coke, a Member of Parliament, at his house in St. James's Place, London. Free.

I and the rest of our neighbourhood give your Honour many thanks for your kindness to us in taking off the tax of windows. And we also give you many thanks for your kindness to us about the fray we had at Derby. But since I was with you Abraham Allen of Derby sent us word by a neighbour that he would indict us in the Crown Office, if we would not make him satisfaction for beating him, and we have witnesses that heard him say, when he went in, Let me go, for I can knock down four or five presently. And we all desire you to take care of this as well as the rest.

(No date.)—Count Theobald Taaffe to Thomas Coke near St. James.

I was this morning to wait on you desiring your presence in the House of Commons, my Lord Carlingford's petition being the second to be heard. Missing of you I take the liberty to inform you that the Irish business was put off till tomorrow, and my Lord's case will certainly come on. I beg your assistance in being there.

(No date.)—Sir John Walter to Thomas Coke of Melbourne.

I suppose by this time you have received an account from your groom how your horse ran. Mr. Glynn and Sir Charles Barrington, and Warwick Luke and I are now drinking your health. I discharged your horses at Woodstock, and would have sent them on to Newmarket, but the horse there by the articles is excepted against. I have sent my wagon for the beer you were pleased to give me, and hope I shall soon after have the happiness of seeing you here.

(No date.)—Sir John Walter to Thomas Coke at Melbourne.

I am very glad I can give you so good an account of your horse. He ran two heats and was distanced [in] neither. The first he came in fourth horse, and in the second in a very good place; so having tried his goodness, I did not think fit to run the third. I shall not be from home till the Parliament sits and nobody shall be gladder to see you.

I shall send your horse home to you, because he cannot run for the plate at Newmarket. Roger Manton's horse runs the four mile course the first time with nine stone ; he gives the Duke two pounds: and that day three weeks at even weights six miles.

(Temp. Anne.) Elizabeth Lady Mohun to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

After you left me last night, dear cousin Vice Chamberlain, I received a letter from the person we talked of, full of spirit, yet tempered with so much softness and gentlemanlike good manners that, instead of proving a satisfaction, it was rather a mortification to think such a man my enemy. . . . The declaration I heard he made was that were he the whole Privy Council it should pass against me nemine contradicente. This was something so remarkable and so inconsistent with his good sense that, though I had disobliged him, I should have thought he could not have expressed so rash a sentence, till I again inquired into the truth, and it was again repeated. Now as I have never given myself a liberty of censuring anybody, much less himself, but on the contrary I have commended his person with great justice, which was all I could do, having never in my life had the least acquaintance with him, I cannot help being surprised at so unaccountable an aversion, and cannot but think some wickedly officious worthless creature has possessed him with a wrong character of me. I beg therefore dear cousin that you will try to feel his mind, for I am under the greatest impatience to know the cause : and if you meet with a fair occasion, it would be the greatest obligation to do me justice, as I think you would to all the world, and, I flatter myself, more particularly to your most faithful humble servant.

(Temp. Anne.) Windsor.—Elizabeth, Duchess of Somerset, to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have acquainted the Queen with your request, and she commands me to tell you that you have her leave to stay in town till the beginning of next week, and to put yourself and family in mourning : but as there is no Lord Chamberlain here, it will be necessary for you to leave it off the birthday, because you must appear to give those orders on that occasion, which cannot be properly done by anybody else.

(Temp. Anne.)—Mary Stanhope [Maid of Honour ?] to [Vice Chamberlain Coke], in St. James's Place.

I am very unwilling to give you this trouble, but 'tis impossible for me to avoid it in the behalf of my sisters and self, to beg you will let the Chaplains' room be broke open, it being the Queen's pleasure we should eat there; and there being no other place where 'tis possible but in my own lodgings. You may easily believe it must be intolerable for we six and thirteen servants, besides the table keeper and his wife, and the only place I have to spare can hardly hold six chairs. I hope what I have said is sufficient to prevail with you, or if you think it unreasonable that you will pardon it.

(Temp. Anne.)—H. St. J. [Henry St. John], Sir John Stanley [Baronet], B.G. and G.G. [George Granville] to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

Squire Chamberlain, the inclosed will inform you that we are to save Signor Saggione's life tomorrow : therefore this is to let you know that 'tis agreed we meet tomorrow at ten of the clock at the Secretary at War's in Golden Square, from thence to proceed to the place appointed in the inclosed paper. Which is all at present from, dear derivative Tom, yours ever ——.

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(Temp. Anne.) Northend, Dinner time.—"Martin." [Sir John Stanley Baronet] to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

George [Granville] and I will not fail tomorrow about six to meet you at the head of our troops near the plains of Honslow—the horse commanded by Dumplin—with stomachs prepared to storm Bucklebury Castle at the hour of dinner. Not doubting therefore of your zeal to carry on so great a design we bid you heartily farewell, the beef being on the table. I am tout à vous.

A paper indorsed by Thomas Coke "Mr. William Fanshaw's Memorial."

John Fanshawe of Parslows in the County of Essex Esquire did serve King Charles the First from the beginning of the war till the end, and afterwards continued his service to the Crown till the restoration of King Charles the Second, and being a prisoner to the then Government, had been hanged, had not the times turned; by which his service his estate was ruined, and prejudiced near twenty thousand pounds. William Fanshawe, his eldest son, being a servant to King Charles the Second, married the sister of the late Duke of Monmouth, and some time after the King gave him a pension of four hundred pound a year, as a marriage portion with his wife, and promised to double it and settle it for a term of years upon him his wife and children. This pension was duly paid by Sir Stephen Fox till the King's death, who died before any further settlement was made. After which the Papists got the pension taken from him, because he had persuaded his wife to turn Protestant. Then they seized on his estate and effects in Ireland, which was all he had, and attainted him in the Parliament in Ireland; whereby he lost above three thousand pound, and was forced to run in debt to his great prejudice.

When King William and Queen Mary came to the Crown, the Queen relieved Mrs. Fanshawe, then with child, with 250 guineas, and settled a pension on them of three hundred pound a year, promising to augment it when the war was ended. This pension was duly paid while the Queen lived, but afterwards grew in arrear, so as when King William died, 'twas near five hundred pound behind, which is yet unpaid.

When Queen Ann came to the Crown, Mr. Fanshawe set out his pretences in a petition to her Majesty, and thought himself sure of his pension, in regard his father and his family had always been faithful friends and humble servants to the Lord Chancellor Clarendon during the time of the King's banishment. But contrary to his expectation (by whose means he knows not) one half of the said four hundred pound a year was taken from him; and he being a poor crippled lame man could get no redress, which flung him into a melancholy which increased his distemper, so as the gout, scurvy and dropsy growing upon him, confined him to his chamber, where for about five years past he hath suffered most infinite pains, not being able to set his foot to the ground, nor to go to his bed or out of his chair, but as he is lifted by two servants.

In this sad condition both his housekeeper and himself have been arrested; and though he then got bail, yet those debts must be paid, or he must go to prison: and this two hundred pound a year is all he hath, to support himself and his poor children, for his paternal estate is so deeply mortgaged that it cannot bring anything in this seven years and upwards, if ever he hopes to leave anything to his poor children.

He humbly hopes that if this paper, which is every word true, were laid before the Queen, and her Majesty truly informed of his miserable

condition and the pretences he hath to this pension, her Majesty's infinite goodness and mercy would persuade her to have pity of him and his poor motherless children, and grant him the said four hundred pound a year, according to his humble request, thereby to keep himself out of a prison and provide for his poor children.

(Temp. Anne.)—To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty. The Memorial of Henry Earl of Bindon, Deputy (with your Majesty's approbation) to Thomas Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England—most humbly shewing—that the places of the Great Officers of this Realm in Parliament, Trials of Peers, Assemblies and Conferences of Council were settled by the Statute 31 Henry VIII. wherein the Great Chamberlain of England and the Marshal of England are ranked before the King's Chamberlain, now commonly called Lord Chamberlain of the Household. And that in all solemn ceremonies, as ParliamentaryProcessions, Proceedings before and at Coronations through London and to Saint Paul's Cathedral, to the Chapel Royal at Christenings and Creations of Princes &c., when the Sword of State is borne, the Lord Great Chamberlain and Lord Marshal of England have ever since that Act, agreeable to a more antient usage, gone on the right and left hand thereof (when they were present) of which many precedents are ready to be produced. But this right in the instance of going to Chapel at Whitehall being disputed by Henry Earl of St. Albans, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, the same was on All Saints Day 1672 determined against his Lordship, upon a hearing by your Royal Uncle King Charles the 2nd. And accordingly the Lord Great Chamberlain and Lord Marshal went by the Sword as well in Processions to Chapel as in all other public solemnities, till such time as in the year 1686 an Order was obtained declaring that the Lord Chamberlain of the Household should go on the right hand of the Sword and the Vice Chamberlain on the left, when the King should be attended to the Chapel Royal, and in all other Ceremonies within the Palaces, where his Majesty should reside, when the Sword should be carried before him. Which determination in the Lord Marshal's case is not only contrary to all former practice, but likewise inconsistent with the constitution of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. Yet the Lord Chamberlain of your Majesty's Household and the Vice Chamberlain, or one of them having notwithstanding assumed places by the Sword in the absence of the Lord Great Chamberlain and Lord Marshal at some of the late Processions in St. Paul's Cathedral, and pretending from those facts to do so again on like occasions. Wherefore to prevent all disputes for the future, and in vindication of the rights of the Hereditary Marshal of England, the said Earl of Bindon most humbly represents the whole matter to your Majesty, hoping you will be graciously pleased to suffer him, in case any doubt remains thereon, to be heard before your Majesty by his Counsel, that such effectual determination may afterwards be made as to your great justice and wisdom shall seem fit.

(Temp. Anne.)—"From the Mercers Weavers and Silkmen" to Vice Chamberlain Coke.

The humble request of several Mercers, Weavers, Silkmen, Lacemen, Fringemakers &c. at a meeting is that you would be pleased to represent to her Majesty the many hardships and wants thousands of her poor subjects have undergone this war by want of business, bad payments, decay of trade, Court mournings, heavy taxes, lotteries &c.; insomuch that several hundreds who were men of considerable substance ten years ago are now really reduced so low that they can scarce get bread

Coke MSS.

for their families to eat, and are grieved to see so many poor souls as come daily to them almost starved, begging for work where they have it not for them. Sir, this being our case, and the case of almost all trades, as we see by the abundance of bankrupts and shops shut up all over the town and kingdom too, even in the greatest streets, such as Strand, Fleet Street &c. we only desire that our good and gracious Queen would be pleased to encourage dancings and balls at Court on her birth night and other public occasions, which are certainly the greatest support to ours and almost all other trades: for a Ball at Court not only causes a greater and richer appearance than any other entertainment on the birthday (especially if 'tis known sometime beforehand) but is also the cause of hundreds of balls among the quality in the City and all over England, which otherwise would not be, and which is such an advantage to trade as no other entertainment can be. This, Sir, is not only what we have from those who were traders in King Charles's time, when there used to be Balls at Court almost every week, but what we found by experience last birthday was twelvemonth from the little dancing that was before her Majesty that night in the room behind the drawing room, which not only produced so many balls among the quality and others as caused the gayest spring and summer that has been this reign, but also opened the hearts of the quality and gentry, being diverted by dancing from gaming (the ruin of all trade and every thing that's good) that we received several debts unexpectedly, which had we not several of us must have gone off that are still standing. Which that you may move to her Majesty the first opportunity, whose goodness is such that we doubt not of redress, is the humble request of her Majesty's most dutiful loyal subjects and your Honour's most humble and obedient servants.

(Temp. Anne.) Northend. — Sir John Stanley to the Right Honble. Mr. Vice Chamberlain [Coke].

My Lady Granville sent me the inclosed answer about her house, with a paper of the particulars of her grant, which she desires my Lord Chamberlain to lay before the Queen, that she may know her Majesty's pleasure before she goes to Windsor. I find my Lady Granville is advised not to name any sum; but by the estimate in her paper, and by what she said to me, she is resolved not to abate of 6,000*l.* She presses mightily that the matter may be determined this week, because she has contracted with builders to repair and make alterations in the house next week. I am tout à vous.

[Endorsed by Mr. Coke "About Lady Granville's house in St. James's."]

(Temp. Anne.)—G. G. (George Granville) to Thomas Coke, in St. James's Place.

Your being too much inclined to be a lazy gentleman obliges me to endeavour to wake you early this morning to attend the House about our family Bill. There are very powerful solicitations against us, and therefore we have occasion for all our friends, in which number give me leave always to depend upon you. (*Seal, three rests.*)

(Temp. Anne.)—G. G. (George Granville) to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke).

Dear Vice,—A thousand thanks for your information. When we meet we will agree upon some time to view this habitation, which I value the more for the neighbourhood. I had a message just now from Collier requiring me to engage you to meet Cornelius and Dr. Shadwell at his house in Hatton Garden this evening at seven. I suppose you

will be at Westminster by and by, and then I will expect your resolution.

(Temp. George I.)—Lochmann to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke).

Monsieur le Vice-Chamberlain est très humblement prié de l'ordonner la reparation dans la maison de Mons. le Grand Maréchal d'Hardenberg. Le Clerk Ernest qui demeure dans la dite maison peut montrer tout ce que doit être reparé. Mons. Schröder prie aussi de la souvenir de la reparation de sa chambre à St. James's.

(Temp. George I.)—Duke of Bolton to (Vice-Chamberlain Coke).

I have the favour of yours, and when I met you coming through Brentford, I did not think that you was coming to Hampton Court, for I had given all the necessary orders for finishing the Prince and Princess' apartment, and the young Princesses, as last night, which I find was done by those I ordered to bring me an account of it. I see his Royal Highness yesterday, and am sorry if he had any commands to give, he would not honour me with them. As to the alteration of the beds you speak on, I believe [it] cannot answer, when I come to speak to his Royal Highness: but shall give such directions as I hope will answer what he would have. As to the alteration of the rooms as he designs them, he will do that as he pleases to his own servant, I having by his Majesty's command (as you know) given over that part of the House to his Royal Highness's service: so that I reckon that neither you nor I have any more to do with it.

(Temp. George I.)—Sir John Stanley to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

The Great Wardrobe have sent me the inclosed appraisement of Lord Oxford's glasses, and I have since received a letter from Mr. Thomas about them which I send you. As soon as you have the King's pleasure upon it, and the estimate to be made by the Works, you will let me know whether it is to be paid by the Treasurer of the Chamber, or the Great Wardrobe, but the first will be more expeditious. I likewise send you a letter from Mr. Dalton, in which he seems to complain with reason. I never knew the King's servants eat of the King's dinner if company dined with him, but had always fresh meat; and when the King dined alone, that the dinner was divided with the Grooms. If my Lord Steward doubts this Mr. Lowman can inform him. I suppose you will also inquire about the candles; especially the candle to light the King should be there, for your own sake. I think this poor thrift and management.

(Temp. George I.)—Sir John Stanley to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I have writ to my Lord Chamberlain to acquaint him with Her Royal Highness's pleasure that she has a preacher to recommend for the fifth Sunday, if he has not already appointed one. The notice of the Court going out of mourning I have sent, and will take care of all the other things you mention.

(George I., accession of?).—A Paper endorsed by Vice Chamberlain Coke, "List of the Lodgings at Somerset House."

	Rooms.	Closets.	Garrets.
Lady Arlington [Alington ?] - -	9	6	4
Mr. Meremont - - - -	4	1	1
Mrs. Lockhart - - - -	5	1	4
Mrs. Malloes - - - -	3	1	1
Mrs. Ireland - - - -	4	2	

	Rooms.	Closets.	Garrets.
Mr. Greenwood	1		
Le Gourge	2		
Lord Clarendon by the Royal apartments	4	3	1
Over the Gateway	8	1	
Mr. La Force	3	1	1
Mrs. Goldsaddle	1		
The Porter's Lodge	3		
Mr. Rowland	5	2	
Col. Sandys	5	1	1
Mrs. Yardley	2	2	
Mr. Hewet	5	2	1
Mrs. Killigrew	2	2	
Mrs. Morgan	2		
Lady Pitts (deceased)	6		
The Gardener	2		
Mrs. Thornhill	6	1	
Mrs. Roper	4	1	
Mrs. Cramer	3		
Mr. Rushee	2		
Mrs. Millicent	3		
Mrs. Humes	6		
Mr. Sayer	9	4	1
Mr. Killigrew	3	2	
Lady Cranmer	4		
Mr. Wood	4		
Mrs. Stephens	2	2	
Mr. Burjoy	2	2	4
Sir William Saunderson	5	1	1
Mr. Hutton	5	3	1

(Temp. George I.)—Sir John Stanley to [Vice Chamberlain Coke].

I received the favour of yours last night, and have given directions that the card tables at St. James's and the four dozen of cane chairs should be sent to Hampton Court as soon as they can be. As to the Tennis Court I dare give no directions, till the King is apprised of the charge; for the putting up sails as you propose will cost at least 200*l.* The boarding it up will cost as much more, and I am sure will not be done in two months; nor the room be lighted under 10*l.* a night, which I believe the King will think too great a charge, to turn a good tennis court into a bad barn, that will endanger the lives of everybody that sits in it. I therefore desire that you will represent this to his Majesty for his commands; for without it it will not be fit for me to send a letter to my Lord Chamberlain to sign for what may be thought a great and unnecessary expense. In the meantime, if his Majesty will not please that his Presence and Privy Chamber be lighted up for that use, which will be more handsome and less expense, I can't but think the Old Guard Chamber, which is hung for the Green Cloth, but not used by them at night, or the Communication Gallery between the two Great Apartments, or even the Old Hall, will be more convenient, more warm, and a less charge, for the company to play cards than in the Tennis Court. But this is all submitted to the King's pleasure. As to the Serjeant at Arms absence, 'tis usual in that case to direct one of the Quarter Waiters or Gentlemen Pensioners to carry a mace, and I will take care to represent Hall's neglect to my Lord Chamberlain.

(Temp. George I.) (Hampton Court?)—Henry Lowman to Vice Chamberlain Coke at St. James's.

His Majesty came here about 6 o'clock. I stood to attend, and finding the King turning up towards the upper ground, I desired Milord Hertford to ask his Majesty to see the pictures as were designed for the Gallery: upon which the King came in, and saw the Basan from Windsor, and the picture of Paulo Veronese you intended to send back to Windsor, thinking it not good enough for the Gallery, and that of Shiky (?) to go with it to make Windsor Gallery good. All which his Majesty approved, but asked what should be done with the picture of King Charles with his Queen and children. I said I hoped it would remain where it hung. His Majesty went through the whole and was well pleased with the Gallery; and then the Staircase, which pleased him much. He went down into the Guard Chamber, and I showed the waved-glass sashes: he said it was well done, for he saw them windows always full. Then his Majesty desired to see the right way coming into the House, which I did, and when his Majesty was in the Court I asked if he would be pleased to step into the New Building—it was so near: but his Majesty answered then he would lose the pleasure of walking in the Garden. So I carried him into the Private Lodgings. I showed him how you had divided the overplus of the Gallery pictures in the Lodgings. In short, his Majesty approved of everything, and left us very well satisfied. He asked me how long it would be before Mr. Kent would have done: I told him in a week or ten days, as he had told me: and the scaffolding in the Gallery should be taken down next Monday, but then I should set up a rolling scaffold to finish the 28 bass relieves, and 'twould be no hindrance to his Majesty. Milord Hertford and Lord Delawar was by. I was in town on Monday, but have not been well since. I will therefore keep for some days quiet, which I cannot be at St. James's. I hear a whisper as if the King would come his birthday.

(Temp. George I.)—La liste de ceux qui viennent avec le Roi, que Mons. Bothmar souhaite fussent logés.

Mons. Bernsdorf—pr. Ministre.
Baron Gerts et sa Femme—Tresorier.
Count Plut, Grand Chamberlain.
Marechal Hernback (Hardenberg ?).
Baron Kilmansack (Kielmansegg) Grand Escuier.
Mons. Robethon, Secretaire de l'Ambassade.
Mons. Hoptoph (?), Secretaire du Cabinet.

Baron Bothmar desires the Vice Chamberlain would be pleased to provide lodgings for these gentlemen; and likewise that he would order three rooms, where they can be best spared, to be set apart for the King's German Secretaries Office.

Ballads and Verses.

To my Lord Skardell.

Insulting rival, do not boast
  Your conquest lately won.
No wonder that her heart was lost,
  Where senses first were gone.

O'er one that's under Bedlam's laws
What triumph can be had.
For loving you was not the cause,
But sign of being mad.

Your servant,
CUTTS.
×

The Miracle of the Junto.

As Moses once and Josua
And that Virago Deborah
Bestrid poor Israel.
Like reverence pay to us—for who
Can ride a Nation as we do
Without a miracle.

Merit we hate, and wit we slight,
We neither act nor reason right,
Nor nothing mind but pence.
Unskilful we victorious are,
Conduct a Kingdom without care
And Councils without sense.

From the Bath. 1699.

The wife of the late Brigadier Villers.

Villers has all the charms, has all the arts
Of dress to captivate and ruin hearts.
No words can speak, no language can express
How bright, how charming, how divine she is !
In her fair face, her shape, her air, her mien
Heaven is displayed, and Paradise is seen.
Each lovely posture doth our hearts enthrall,
Whether she stands, or sits, or leans, we fall.
Each charming motion doth command our love,
With her our hearts, with her our pulses move.
But oh ! what rhetoric can describe her gait,
When at her heels ten thousand Cupids wait.
She negligently treads with gentle air,
And careless, gives the sad beholders care.
Nor is her body than her mind more bright,
Nor are her eyes more sparkling than her witt.
In short would mortals know what Angels are,
They look, they move, they walk, they speak like her.

Lady Dillon.

Fair Dillon has the Irish billows crost
To make invasion on the British Coast.
Armies of Cupids do the fair attend,
And unresistably her power extend.
In vain the English boast of victories,
Ireland gains greater conquests by her eyes.

Sir Robert Worsley's Lady of the Isle of Wight.

When Worsley dances, not the spheres above,
With so much grace and harmony do move.
At every step she takes with graceful art
She sets her foot upon a vanquished heart.
Where'er she turns herself with dangerous skill,
Like the bright lightning does she move and kill.

When she, we all do move—and shake, when she—
Bend with her foot, and tremble with her knee.
With every motion of her hand she throws
Us down, and tramples on us as she goes.
The lovely conqueror walks o'er the plain
And in proud triumph strides o'er heaps of slain.
Do not, fair Madam, on the prostrate tread,
Do not insult, bright tyrant, o'er the dead.
Ah! wound not with [thy] foot, alas! there flies
Enough destruction from your charming eyes.

Sir Robert Dashwood's sister, worth 14,000*l.*

When Dashwood sings, her breath, like some strong wind,
Shakes and disturbs and agitates the mind.
When Dashwood dances, Love arms every part
Her head, her foot, her arm, her hand a dart.
But oh! when Dashwood talks the Graces throng
About her lips, and dance upon her tongue.
Mirth, humour, wit, gay conversation shine
In her discourse and make her words divine.
Easy and unconstrained her wit doth flow,
'Tis free, while we that hear her are not so.
But vainly I attempt to praise her wit,
For to speak of it, I should write with it.

Sir Robert's daughter.

Nor must we here forget her lovely Niece.
Mankind's first state appears in her fair eyes.
At once there's innocence and paradise.

Sir Robert Cotton's daughter of Cheshire.

Cotton with marvellous harmonious art
Plays on the flute, and on the hearers' heart.
The instrument and we at once are struck,
And when she shakes the note, our souls are shook.
Strange power of Art! that thus canst arm a sound,
And give weak air the strength and might to wound.

Lady Bankes's daughter.

Bright Lutterell makes every heart her prize,
At once victorious by her voice and eyes.
On the amazing beauties of her face
With mighty pleasure, mighty pain we gaze.
And when the Syren sings, her tuneful breath,
Like pestilential air, gives certain death.
In face and view the Angel doth appear.
For all we know of what these Spirits are,
Is only that they sing, and that they're fair.

An Excellent *New Ballad*, to the tune of "Packington's Pound," beginning :—

When Burnet perceived that the beautiful dames
Who flock to the Chapel of holy St. James,
On their lovers [alone] their kind looks did bestow,
And smiled not at him, when he bellowed below.
To the Princess he went,
With a pious intent,
This dangerous plot in the Church to prevent.
"Oh! Madam (said he) our Religion is lost,
"If the Ladies thus ogle the Knights of the Tost (Toast).

[Printed in "Poems on State Affairs." Vol. 3. 1704.]

Coke MSS.

Upon the *Duchess of Rutland's Verses* on Lord Halifax.

Rutland all hearts with double charms subdues,
A lovely Venus and an easy Muse.
Above all rival heights her conquests rise,
Orinda's verse and Saccharissa's eyes.
O Halifax, how happy and how blest!
Thy glory in her polished lines expressed.
From memory could wasting Time erase
Thy strains on Sunderland's enchanting face,
In thy last song could William cease to shine,
Forgot and hushed his thunder o'er the Boyne,
Thy tuneful skill, of lasting fame secure,
Shall in harmonious Rutland's praise endure;
Oblivion, concentrated thus, defy—
Nothing which she is pleased to like can die.

To the tune of "the Rummer." [June–August, 1696], beginning:—

Good People—what, will you of all be bereft?
Will you never learn wit, while a penny is left?
We're all like the dog in the fable betrayed
To let go the substance, and snap at the shade
Our specious pretences
And foreign expences
To war for religion will waste all our chink.
Its stript and its clipt
Its lent and its spent,
Till 'tis gone, till 'tis gone, to the devil, I think.

[Printed in "Poems on State Affairs." Vol. 2. 1703, and elsewhere.]

Untitled Verses, printed in Wilkins's "Political Ballads," and previously, beginning:—

There was a glorious Queen once
That filled Great Britain's throne,
She fought for her Allies,
And to preserve her own.
When a fighting we did go, did go,
When a fighting we did go.

1717. October 1. "Marlborough.—To Coronell Cope att the Bath."

Covered with dirt, and overwhelmed with spleen
At Marlborough Inn arrived, at Head of Queen,
Not such, alas! as when last night with thee
I cheerful sat till morning clock struck three.
Pensive, alone, I by the chimney sit,
No belles to warm, and not one word of wit.
Oft of my single pint I sit and sip,
And toast the charms of Salles upper lip.
Whilst you in pleasures every sense employ,
And Bath supplies eternal rounds of joy.
Laugh and coquet with Bellenger and Straw
And Jones and Sloan into your circle draw.
There to each nymph your gay idea tell,
And scarce bestow one thought on Sarah Bell,

Till midnight hour summons each maid to rest,
And Penny in five minutes will be blest.
I to my pillow now for sleep repair,
But hope to meet my Salle's image there,
More to the life than Kneller image drew,
No petticoat but lawn to bar my view.
Her own meek look and soft desiring sigh
With all the killing sweetness in her eye
Where thousand [thousand] basking Cupids lie.
Tell her her slave will ne'er be free again,
I love my thraldom and I hug my chain.

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